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TUESDAY JUNE 16 1992

45p

England fans warned by Uefa

Mellor criticises Swedes over Malmo violence

By NICHOLAS WOOD IN LONDON AND JOHN GOODBODY IN STOCKHOLM

BRITAIN yesterday criticised Sweden for allowing the sale of alcohol to England football supporters attending the European Championship.

The Commons united in condemning the violence in Malmo after Saturday's match between England and France as the Uefa president, Lennart Johansson, gave a warning that more trouble from England fans in Sweden could lead to another ban on clubs and the international team in European competitions.

David Mellor, the national heritage secretary, whose department has responsibility for sport, said that the Swedish authorities had ignored advice to deny drink to the supporters.

Although the decision did not excuse the "lamentable behaviour" of a small minority, it had contributed to the disturbances, which began outside a beer tent crammed

with hundreds of England supporters. "I very much regret that we have once again had the opportunity of proving that beer and certain English football fans do not mix," Mr Mellor said.

He was responding to protests from MPs about what Sir Michael Neubert, a former minister, called "empty-headed, beer-bellied louts" who had again besmirched the nation.

Mr Johansson dismissed any suggestion that the England squad could be sent home even if there is a repeat of the riots in Malmo. But he added: "If it does happen again, and we see we are running into problems we have, of course, to sit down and discuss about the future — the future of English clubs and the national team."

English clubs have been back in Europe for two seasons since the ban which followed the Heysel stadium disaster in 1985. Mr Johansson said: "This cannot go on year after year. I was in favour all the time for bringing the English clubs back, but I think now the English government and the FA have to reconsider the situation. I had the impression they had kept it fairly well under control, but now it blows up again."

In Stockholm, police gave a warning that they would adopt tougher tactics to combat violence tomorrow. Mr Mellor told the Commons that steps were being taken to catch the hooligans. Malcolm George, the assistant chief constable of Greater Manchester, was leading a team of British police in Malmo and they were studying videos of the riots to identify the culprits.

"Everything possible is being done to ensure that those who can be identified as playing a part in these events are arrested. Already serious charges have been preferred in Sweden... I hope that we shall be able to exclude those convicted from going to football matches again for a very long time."

Mr Mellor added that those convicted of hooliganism could be prohibited from entering football grounds in the UK. Even if they were not convicted of an offence, their names could be passed to other countries hosting foot-

ball matches and they could be denied entry.

The national heritage secretary, who returned from Malmo yesterday, said that Uefa and the Swedish authorities had appreciated the efforts made by the UK police and football authorities to curb the hooligans. Names of 300 known troublemakers had been given to the Swedes. Half a dozen had been excluded, but he thought that the number should be greater the next time England played abroad.

Mr Mellor said that the assistance had also included advice, minutes at the Council of Europe meeting before the championship, that beer should not be served to English supporters. At the 1990 World Cup in Italy, alcohol sales were banned for 24 hours before and after matches.

Stockholm police will adopt a different strategy from their Malmo colleagues to cope with potential England troublemakers when they arrive for the game against Sweden tomorrow. With the total arrests of Britons at 95, 29 of them facing court appearances after the Malmo violence, Stockholm police will station at least 700 officers at the cheap beer tent.

Swedish police have charged two people who are alleged to have started the Malmo disturbance when they climbed on the roof of a beer tent. Neil Goodwin, 23, of Lechworth, Hertfordshire, has been charged with assault and Kristian Wiernyhar, 21, a Norwegian, is in custody.

Monsters we made, page 14
Scotland lose, page 38



The Prince and Princess of Wales waiting for their carriage before leaving the annual service of the Order of the Garter at Windsor Castle yesterday. Sir Edward Heath was one of three new knights installed

Knights become hot under the collar

By AIAN HAMILTON

GILBERTIAN flummery was designed for temperate climes. The Knights of the Garter were booted unmercifully inside their cloaks and bonnets yesterday as they processed before a crowd of 3,000 in the precincts of Windsor Castle to the annual service of England's oldest and highest order of chivalry.

Sir Edward Heath, beaming mightily throughout, became one of three new knights to be installed in a ceremony created in honour of St George by Edward III in 1348, probably in an age when summers were cooler. Earlier yesterday, in the privacy of the castle throne room, Sir Edward had had his blue garter buckled just below his left knee by the Queen, assisted by two other Knights Companion, the Lords Callaghan and Carrington.

Sir Edward is the fifth prime minister of the Queen's reign, following Churchill, Eden, Wilson and Callaghan, to be invested with the highest civil order in the land. He may draw satisfaction from now out-ranking his old adversary Baroness Thatcher in the precedence of chivalry: her Order of Merit is a lesser tribute, if only just.

Since 1946 the Garter has been detached from all political influence, and is now firmly in the Queen's personal gift.

Former prime ministers are traditionally offered a hereditary peerage, but Sir Edward has consistently refused. Having no children on whom to bequeath a title, he will regard the Garter, limited to 24 Knights Companion at any one time, as more than

Continued on page 2, col 3

Major 'never saw secret service files on Maxwell'

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major is expected to tell the Commons today that he has never seen any information from Britain's intelligence services about the financial dealings of Robert Maxwell.

The prime minister is expected to come under pressure at question time to spell out his own knowledge after a Labour demand for a Commons statement on the allegations was rejected yesterday. He will also be challenged on whether intelligence services should investigate commercial activities of private individuals.

Downing Street and the Cabinet Office refused to comment yesterday on reports that the joint intelligence committee, part of the Cabinet Office, received details of telephone and fax messages intercepted from Mr Maxwell's yacht in the Mediterranean.

Whitehall sources rejected allegations that the security service had submitted papers on this subject to the Cabinet. They said that the source of the claim, named in an article in the *Financial Times*, would not have had access to sensitive information at the time.

A Cabinet investigation is under way to check whether any intelligence papers relating to Mr Maxwell's financial dealings were received. A Bank of England spokesman said yesterday that the bank could find no trace of intelligence reports, said to have been made in 1989, exposing Mr Maxwell's irregular dealings.

Gordon Brown, shadow trade and industry secretary, called for a Commons statement on the allegations. He said that it was "improper" that the government collected information unconnected

with security matters through its intelligence services. Mr Brown asked why the government had not intervened, and protected thousands of pensioners, if it knew of financial irregularities.

Whitehall sources said out yesterday that Robin Robison, a former Joint Intelligence Committee official, who was the only named source of the claim in yesterday's *Financial Times*, was moved to a post in which he had no access to sensitive intelligence information in June 1989 before the alleged events took place that autumn.

A full report was prepared for the Cabinet at the time of Mr Maxwell's death, but some details were passed to the Cabinet in 1989, according to the newspaper. The article said the information was distributed to top Whitehall officials including the prime minister's office and Cabinet ministers.

It was made clear that Mr Robison would not be prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act for giving out details purporting to be government information.

Mr Robison left his job as administrative clerk to the JIC in 1990 after speaking out on television and in the press over what he claimed were abuses by the intelligence services, which he described as being "out of ministerial control".

Mr Brown has written to Mr Major asking him to make a clear statement on who was informed, when and in what detail and why no action was taken to investigate fraud and protect pension funds.

Lord Stevens of Ludgate, chairman of Invesco MIM, which handled more than £50 million of the Mirror

pension fund, said yesterday that he felt no moral obligation to donate funds to the new Maxwell pensioners' charity (Neil Bennett writes).

In a second blow to the government's hopes that City firms and institutions would donate large sums to help the 32,000 Maxwell pensioners, Andrew Hugh Smith, chairman of the Stock Exchange, also said it would not contribute to the funds because it had not benefited from any of the publisher's share dealings.

Spy centre, page 6
Invesco refusal, page 19
Comment, page 23
Law Times, page 29

COMPANY DIRECTORS

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FROM 1 JULY 1992 a new sliding scale of late filing penalties will be imposed on all limited companies that fail to file their accounts on time. Just one day late and a company will be automatically penalised. The longer the delay — the more there is to pay (see table).

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Births, marriages, deaths

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1X

Spike gets last laugh with honorary CBE

By JO KNOWSLEY

CONFUSION surrounding the apparent snub of Spike Milligan in last weekend's Birthday honours was resolved yesterday with the confirmation of one of Britain's best loved comedians as an honorary CBE.

News had leaked out before the weekend that the former Goon, 74, a comedy favourite of the Prince of Wales was to appear on the list. The Manic Depression Fellowship, of which he is patron, had gone so far as to issue a press release congratulating him. Saturday dawned — but there was no award.

Yesterday it became clear that, because he is an Irish and not a British citizen, he could not figure in the list but was entitled to an honorary award, which are announced later.

Last night at his home in East Sussex he said he was flattered by the award, but shrugged off any implications of

nobility. "I can't see the sense in it really, as it makes me a Commander of the British Empire. It would have been more sensible to make me a Commander of Milton Keynes — at least that exists. My parents were snobby and they would have loved this, but I have no sense of ritual, no ego."

"What does the honour feel like? Well, I haven't felt it yet. I get my hands on it on June 23, when I go into a politician's office and he'll pull it from a drawer and give it to me. Then I'll go home and put it in another drawer. No sense at all."

Another Irish citizen, rock star Bob Geldof, was made an honorary knight after his giant Band Aid fund-raising charity concert.

Mr Milligan could have justifiably expected to become a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Earlier this year he received a letter from Whitehall asking him if he would accept, and he replied: "Yes". But he says that he was

not really disappointed at last week's omission.

David Mellor, the national heritage secretary, yesterday sent a personal message of congratulations to Mr Milligan for the award of the CBE, conferred for "outstanding services as a writer, broadcaster and entertainer, and his involvement with the conservation of the environment, children's safety and mental health over many years."

Mr Mellor said: "It is a well-deserved honour and I am delighted to offer my personal congratulations to Spike Milligan. I am sure very many people in this country and elsewhere will be very pleased."

Mr Milligan, however, while pleased, remained unimpressed. Asked what mattered in his life these days, he said: "A good wine. I'm about to eat a wonderful spaghetti with a very good Australian red — and I'm taking the phone off the hook to do it."



Milligan: pleased but not much impressed

Lazy Britons put health in peril, study finds

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THE English are putting their health at risk because they take too little exercise, according to a large survey of fitness levels in the adult population.

Although 90 per cent recognise that exercise is beneficial to health, few engage in it regularly. Fitness levels in young women and middle-aged men are particularly worrying, the survey says.

The report, published by the Health Education Authority and the Sports Council, which claim that their survey is the most comprehensive undertaken, shows that even among those aged 16 to 24, 70 per cent of men and 91 per cent of women are not fit enough for a healthy life. This age group should exercise vigorously three times a week for 20 minutes, says the Health Education Authority and the Sports Council which published the report. Only 14 per cent of young men and four per cent of women are exercising to this level.

The survey also found that one third of men and two thirds of women were unable to walk at a reasonable pace up a small slope without becoming breathless. Walking for several minutes on level ground constitutes severe exertion for half the women aged over 55 years. Among 65 to 74 year olds almost a third of men and a half of

women would have difficulty doing simple things such as rising from a chair without using their arms.

Better physical fitness can help reduce the risk of coronary heart disease, control blood pressure and prevent osteoporosis, Dr Jacky Chambers, the Health Education Authority's director of public health, said. By getting fitter we would put less strain on the National Health Service and remain physiologically young for longer.

The report suggests that we get fatter and less fit each year: 48 per cent of men and 40 per cent of women are overweight. Obesity was one of the reasons given for lack of exercise. About one in six of the 6,000 people surveyed had taken no exercise in the previous four weeks.

Derek Casey, director of the Sports Council, said that people thought they were fitter than they really are. He said those who played sport as children were more likely to carry on exercising as adults. "We must get people to do sport more frequently and for greater durations," he said. Older people must avoid a spiral of inactivity in which lack of exercise leads to decreased physical capability.

Sir Donald Maitland, chairman of the Health Education Authority, said the report was being discussed with the publishers.

HOW OFTEN DO WE EXERCISE?

Activity of 20 mins in the previous 4 weeks	Men %	Women %
12+ sessions of vigorous activity	14	4
12+ sessions of mix of moderate & vigorous activity	12	10
5-11 sessions of moderate activity	23	27
5-11 sessions of mix of moderate & vigorous activity	18	25
1-4 sessions of mix of moderate & vigorous activity	18	18
None	17	16

Sources: Allied Dunbar National Fitness Survey
Sample: 6,000 adults

Domingo stars in ambitious Tosca

BY SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN AMBITIOUS opera production, which is said to have a potential audience of 1.5 billion, has brought BBC2 and Channel 4 together in their first collaboration.

A version of Puccini's *Tosca*, set in three locations in Rome, is to be televised live with each act being performed exactly in the place specified in the plot. The opera is set during the Napoleonic Wars when Rome is controlled by secret police whose chief, Scarpia, is in love with Tosca, an opera singer, who herself loves a dissident, Cavaradossi.

BBC2 will televise live the first act at Sant'Andrea Della Valle at 11am on Saturday, July 11, the second at the Palazzo Farnese — now the French embassy — that evening at 8.40 and the third act, at Castel Sant'Angelo, at

6am the next morning. Channel 4 will televise a recording of the entire opera that Sunday evening.

Placido Domingo, the Spanish tenor who has made the part of Cavaradossi a speciality, will lead the cast. "For this I am going to have to be in good shape to perform before millions of people for almost 24 hours," he said. "None of us knows what will happen, but this is going to mean a revolution in the world of opera."

The BBC and Channel 4 are contributing £300,000 to the £7 million cost of the "live film", as the project's Albanian-born conceiver and producer, Andrea Andermann, calls it.

The opera will be seen in 46 countries, with the only live audiences being the production crews.

Garner knights get hot under the collar

Continued from page 1

adequate compensation. His personal armorial plate on his knight's stall in St George's Chapel will long outlive him, joining the many hundreds, ancient and modern, that form one of the finest heraldic collections in the world.

Known in office to the satirists of the early 1970s as the Grocer, Sir Edward was not the only member of that profession so honoured yesterday.

Lord Sainsbury, the nation's leading provision merchant, also joined the hallowed ranks of the Garter, as did Lord Ridley, lord steward of the Royal Household and elder brother of the recently ennobled former Cabinet minister.

Vacancies in the Order were created by the deaths in the past two years of the Earl of Cromer and the Lords De L'Isle and Ashburton. Lords Callaghan and Wilson, the other two surviving Garter prime ministers, were both present yesterday, the latter looking frail and requiring the help of an attendant to guide him to his place.

But there was an alternative and greater centre of attraction. The crowd saw the Princess of Wales, in a cool cream suit with matching broad-brimmed hat, arrive by car with the Duchess of Kent, who is on crutches after breaking an ankle, and enter St George's by the side door of the Galilee Porch. The Prince of Wales, as is traditional, walked at the head of the procession with Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

As the royal party, preceded by many-coloured heralds and followed by the Garter Knights, moved from nave to quire, Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, aged 76 and the only non-royal woman in the Order, tripped and fell on a step. She appeared shaken but unhurt, and spent the service dabbling her nose. The heat also took its toll of a scarlet-tunicked Yeoman of the Guard at the rear of the nave, who sunk to his knees to the echoing clatter of dropped sword.

During the service, as the three new Knights were conducted to their stalls, the



Honour bound: Sir Edward Heath in full regalia for the ceremony yesterday

Prince and Princess of Wales sat side by side. Afterwards, as the procession moved to the West Door, the prince once again accompanied his grandmother while the princess walked alone several paces behind the Queen and

the Duke of Edinburgh, staring nervously at the floor.

But then, in what the crowd saw as a masterstroke but is in fact perfectly normal, she and the prince climbed together into an open carriage for the quarter mile drive

back to the castle. The enthusiastic cheers from the crowd, on the day that a controversial book about the princess was published, far outweighed those for the boiling, elderly men whose show it was supposed to be.

Watch kept on green policies

BY TIM JONES

THE government will be told today that its green commitments will be closely monitored. David Astor, chairman of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, will make it clear when he presents the council's annual report that in spite of a low media profile for the environment in the run up to the election, the council worked behind the scenes to secure important advances.

The organisation believes that one of its most important lobbying successes last year was the passage of the Planning and Compensation Act. Mr Astor's speech says: "Thanks in no small degree to CPRE's lobbying, this measure reversed the years of deregulation during the 1980s and equips the town and country planning system with the tools necessary to tackle some of our most pressing environmental problems."

He will also highlight other policy successes to which the council says it influenced. These include a shift in attitude towards minerals extraction, new controls over farm buildings and roads, and a government commitment to legislate to protect hedgerows from destruction. The organisation also claims credit for official acceptance of the case for national parks being run by independent authorities and selective water metering in drought vulnerable areas. The council says it also influenced the choice of an east London approach for the Channel Tunnel rail link.

The Times

We apologise to readers in parts of the West Country, East Anglia and the Midlands who did not receive their copies of Saturday's edition. This was due to production difficulties. The issue included a four-page guide to hotels involved in our Passport to France promotion, and readers wishing to receive a copy should contact the Times backdates department on 071-782-6127.

Reunited survivors of the Titanic look back to 1912

THREE grand old ladies were reunited yesterday to recall the infamous night 80 years ago when the SS Titanic struck an iceberg in mid-Atlantic and sank with the loss of 1,506 lives.

Edith Haisman, 95, Eva Hart, 87, and Millvina Dean, 80, are Britain's three remaining survivors though another nine are believed to be alive in other parts of the world. They gathered in Southampton, from where the White Star liner sailed on her ill-fated maiden voyage on April 10, 1912. Scarcely a street in the city was untouched by the tragedy, for 699 members of her crew of 915 were from Southampton and of those only 147 survived.

At the opening of an exhibition, *Titanic Voices*, at the local maritime museum, Mrs Haisman, from Harefield, west London, said from her wheelchair "I still remember it as vividly as if it were yesterday. I still miss my father. He was a good man."

Mrs Haisman, née Brown, who was born of British parents during the Boer War in South Africa, was travelling with them to open an hotel in Seattle. She was asleep in her cabin when the Titanic

Three survivors of the Titanic's sinking recall for Michael Horsnell that terrible night in April 1912

hit the iceberg. She said: "Being young, I didn't realise we might be drowned. You could see the ice for miles across the sea... nobody worried about it, some of the people, from the third class, came up playing with ice on deck and people in the first class, well they couldn't believe it. They said 'no, she's unsinkable'. They went back to bed."

Her father put her and her mother into a lifeboat and walked away. Mrs Haisman said she watched the Titanic's lights disappearing. "It was terrible, lots of shouting and people crying as she went down." She was picked up by the Carpathian after six hours in freezing water and her mother told her she would never see her father again.

At nine weeks, Miss Dean, who lives at Woodlands in the New Forest, was the youngest passenger aboard.

She said: "My mother Ettie never told me much about what happened because it was such a tragedy she didn't like to."

Miss Dean, whose brother Bertram, 82, another survivor, died in April this year, was lowered into a lifeboat in a sack because she was too small to carry. She said: "We were emigrants. My father had a pub in London and the family was going to Kansas to buy a tobaccoist's shop."

Miss Hart, born in Ilford, Essex, in 1905 and now living near by at Romford, was seven when she sailed for America with her father, a master builder, and her mother. Her mother had a premonition of a disaster and refused to go to bed during the voyage, instead sitting up to sew and knit.

Miss Hart recalled being awoken by a bump. She said: "My father went away and spoke to one of the sailors and came back and said, 'we have hit an iceberg. They are going to launch the lifeboats but you will all be back on board for breakfast.' They started to lower the boats. I never saw him again. He told me to hold my mummy's hand and be a good girl. That is all he said."



Shared memories: Miss Hart, left, Miss Dean, centre, and Mrs Haisman

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kinnock pulls out of Euro party post

Neil Kinnock yesterday withdrew his application to become president of the Confederation of European Socialist Parties and became the latest casualty of the confused political situation in Europe caused by the Danish rejection of the Maastricht treaty (Philip Webster writes).

The Labour leader said last night after a meeting of confederation leaders in Lisbon that the possibility that Labour could eventually oppose a reintroduced Maastricht treaty ratification bill would be inconsistent with his duties as president. The confederation strongly supports the Maastricht treaty, particularly the social chapter from which Britain has opted out. Mr Kinnock had been the only declared candidate and would almost certainly have been appointed but for the Danish referendum result.

Last week it was reported that other social democratic party leaders were becoming concerned by Labour's apparent wavering commitment to the EC, and might push for someone else. However, Labour sources emphasised last night that the decision to pull out was Mr Kinnock's.

It was said that at a lunch yesterday with confederation leaders he became convinced that there was a conflict of duty between heading the confederation with its total commitment to Maastricht and his duty to the Parliamentary Labour Party and the British parliament. Labour's official line has been to abstain on Maastricht but there is a growing likelihood that this will soon become opposition.

Resilient Kinnock, page 9
Diary, page 14

Morton defends book

The Princess of Wales will probably leave the royal family unless she can find some accommodation in her life, Andrew Morton, author of the controversial biography of the princess serialised in *The Sunday Times*, said on BBC radio yesterday. "There is a chronic instability in both the House of Windsor and her marriage, and she is no longer prepared to see it go on," he said. To a suggestion that publication of the book *Diana: Her true story* was in neither the public nor the princess's interest, Mr Morton replied: "It is a well-sourced book. I think it is in her interest that her story is told. It is a sympathetic account of a woman of great courage, of a woman who has been in the depths of despair."

Woodrow Wyatt and Diary, page 14
Law Times, page 31

Vaccine policy attacked

The government was yesterday criticised for restricting the availability of vaccines against hepatitis B, a highly infectious disease that is the most common cause of primary liver cancer. At a press conference to launch Hepatitis B Awareness Week, Elizabeth Fagan, of the Royal Free Hospital, in Hampstead, northwest London, said that the health department policy was to restrict the vaccine to those perceived to be at highest risk: health care workers, homosexuals, intravenous drug users and people receiving many blood transfusions. The policy, Dr Fagan said, had failed to make any impact on eradicating the disease. The health department said that the incidence of the disease had been falling, with only just over 500 cases a year, and that the case for universal vaccination had not been made.

Policing by degrees

Scotland Yard is introducing a training scheme for police officers which will lead to academic qualifications ranging from a certificate in policing to a full degree. The scheme, introduced with Portsmouth Polytechnic, is believed to be the first of its kind in Britain and 150 recruits have enrolled for the first stage. They will study towards a certificate in higher education in policing based on their training course. They must also write a 1,500 word essay on a policing theme and submit a 3,500 word case study examining an actual incident. Recruits are not required to sit for the diploma which is not a guarantee to promotion. The course will operate like the Open University with the students working from courses and exercises sent to them.

Whale joins bathers

A 25-foot whale played happily with swimmers off the Dorset coast at the weekend. The whale, thought to be a humpback, was spotted off West Bay by Alan Thomas as he prepared for a water-skiing session with his daughter Sarah, 14, in the family's boat. They spent about three hours playing in the water with the whale. Mr Thomas, 42, who lives near Bridport, said: "We closed in to have a look and it just followed us a couple of feet behind my propeller. Somehow the whale got over to us there was nothing to fear and we got into the water with it. Gently I got hold of its dorsal fin and it was pulling me along in the water. Then it lifted me out of the water with its tail. I turned around, there was Sarah sitting on its tail." Another swimmer said it was "totally exhilarating" to play with the whale.

PC denies assault

A police inspector told a court yesterday how he arrested one of his own officers after he caught him attacking a motorist who had just been arrested for suspected drink driving. Inspector Jeremy Allford said he had to continue restraining PC David Parr after the attack took place. He told Southwark Crown Court, south London, that he had pulled PC Parr off Roger Wood, a businessman from Hounslow, west London, after he saw the officer punching him in the back of a police van. Mr Allford said that PC Parr punched the man with force in the midriff and in the face. The police constable, suspended from duty since the incident on July 27 last year, denies assault occasioning actual bodily harm. The trial continues.

Trampled girl dies

A teenage girl died yesterday after being trampled by runaway horses which bolted while pulling a wedding carriage. Sandra Grabnic, 16, of Derby, was knocked to the ground while walking along the pavement with her mother. She was taken to Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, with serious head injuries on Saturday afternoon. The wedding carriage was being pulled by two horses taking newlyweds from a ceremony to their reception. The horses broke free and caused a string of collisions as motorists tried to avoid hitting them. Newlyweds Robert and Lee Cole were unhurt.

Tiny baby improves

The world's smallest baby, two months premature, can now breathe on his own. Tyler Davison, who was just 6in long and weighed 11oz when he was born a week ago, is in the baby care unit at Nottingham City Hospital with his twin Stephen, who weighed 2lb 2oz. Their mother Caterina Davison, aged 31, of Lincoln, gave birth by Caesarian section. The twins were described as being in a stable condition but doctors said that they were still regarded as very vulnerable.

Life for woman soldier

Susan Christie, a soldier in the Ulster Defence Regiment, was jailed for five years yesterday for the manslaughter of the wife of her army officer lover. Christie, 23, a UDR private, was jailed by Downpatrick Crown Court for killing Penny McAllister, 24, who was married to Captain Duncan McAllister of the Royal Signals. She lured her to a forest park and slashed her throat.

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Three officers jailed for swindling police union funds

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

THE top tier of the West Midlands branch of the Police Federation was rotten, a judge said yesterday, before jailing three of its former senior officials for dishonesty.

Warwick Crown Court was told that three long-serving police officers had admitted using their union-issued credit cards to pay for personal holidays and trips abroad. One also admitted stealing money which should have gone to the widows of colleagues.

Nicholas Brown, for the prosecution, said that the officers, including two sergeants, had stolen from the police federation, a union which existed to protect the

interests of serving officers. Judge Harrison Hall described the branch of the Police Federation branch as "rotten at the top".

Sergeant David Mytton, aged 50, of King's Norton, Birmingham, a former chairman of the West Midlands branch of the federation and an officer for 28 years, was jailed for 15 months. He also admitted stealing cheques from a federation insurance scheme.

Mr Brown said that the case involved "various forms of dishonesty by experienced police officers who worked full time at the heart of the West Midlands police federation". The federation represents almost 7,000 constables, sergeants and inspectors. Mr Brown said officers made regular payments into an insurance scheme, with premiums being deducted from their salaries at source.

Twice, when the premiums went up at the beginning of 1989 and 1990, deductions were made as though the increase was for the whole of the month, when in fact the higher rate should only have been paid for two weeks. On both occasions Mytton stole the balance.

The policies matured on the date an officer died and by the time the paperwork had been completed the cheque from the insurance company was for that amount, plus interest since the date of death. But nine times, Mytton made out cheques to the widows of his colleagues for the amount on the policies only and stole the interest, a total of £4,400.

The court was told that Sergeant Mytton had covered his tracks by making false entries in the accounts book

and had diverted more than £10,000 for his own use.

Mytton, who became chairman of the federation in 1986, admitted 17 offences of theft and false accounting and asked for eight others to be taken into consideration. The judge said that Mytton had not only deceived his own organisation but had swindled police widows out of money they were due.

Another of those jailed was former PC Arthur Quinn, 48, who had been secretary of the West Midlands branch. Quinn, a British Empire Medal holder, pleaded guilty to three charges of theft. Sergeant David Powell, 51, the branch's former treasurer, admitted four charges of theft.

Quinn, of Birmingham, and Powell, of Halesowen, West Midlands, were each jailed for three months. Quinn had denied seven other charges of dishonesty and Powell denied five similar offences. Their pleas were accepted by the prosecution.

Mr Brown said that Quinn had used federation funds to pay for holidays for himself and his wife in Greece in 1989 and 1990. He used his union-issued credit card for sums in excess of £750 and also used the card to pay for accommodation during a four-day trip to Barcelona.

Powell, a police officer for almost 30 years, admitted using federation funds to pay for air tickets for himself and his wife to Toronto in 1989, and for holidays in Spain in 1989 and 1990.

Judge Harrison Hall told them: "This organisation was rotten at the top. It is clear that each of you in his own way was aware that the others were committing similar frauds."



Heartfelt plea: Anne Diamond, the television presenter whose baby was a cot death victim, with Michael O'Conner, three months, at the launch of National Cot Death Appeal Week which aims to raise £2.1 million for research

Halford accuses her boss of lying

BY RONALD FAUX

ALISON Halford, the suspended assistant chief constable of Merseyside, yesterday accused her chief constable of lying over his recollection of an interview with her after she had gained access to private files on his word processor.

She told an industrial tribunal in Manchester that the file contained a personal reference about her given by James Sharples after she applied for the post of deputy chief constable of Thames Valley. Miss Halford, 52, who is claiming sexual discrimination after failing to win promotion, said: "I was quite shocked and absolutely appalled that a man who said he would give me a good reference could write such damaging material on me. I just could not believe that Jim Sharples could be so devious."

The tribunal was told that the document ended with the words "I commend her", but that Mr Sharples had expressed concern about Miss Halford's judgment and personal suitability.

Later at an interview with Mr Sharples she had told him the reference was one of the most spiteful and mischievous documents she had ever seen. Mr Sharples had then asked how she had seen it and at first she had declined to tell him. She wanted to know why he had written it and he told her that was how he perceived her and it was an honest assessment.

Miss Halford said there were important differences between her recollection of her interview and that of the chief constable. She said: "I take no pleasure yet again in saying the chief constable of Merseyside is a liar."

Miss Halford is accusing the Home Secretary, the chief constable of Merseyside, HM Inspector of Constabulary, and Northamptonshire Police Authority of sexual discrimination after her nine attempts to win promotion failed. The hearing continues today.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy wins £1.2m damages

A boy aged nine whose intelligent mind is "trapped" inside a crippled body because of a medical blunder at birth is to receive at least £1.27 million damages under a structured settlement approved by the High Court yesterday.

Sameer Pimpalkhare, of Redbourne, Hertfordshire, has cerebral palsy caused by loss of oxygen after doctors delayed a Caesarean section. The damages will be met by North West Hertfordshire Health Authority. Mr Michael Brent, QC, for the family, said that Sameer's intellectual capacity was undamaged but he could not walk, speak or feed himself.

Jail contract

Nine private-sector contractors have been asked to tender to run Britain's first private jail for convicted prisoners, Blakenhurst, prison, near Redditch, Hereford and Worcester. The prison is due to open next spring and will take about 650 medium-risk inmates. A Home Office controller will investigate any allegations of misconduct by staff and will adjudicate on disciplinary matters.

Deaf thief jailed

A deaf armed robber who raided eight jewellers in north and west London, was jailed for 11 years by the Central Criminal Court yesterday. Livingstone Haynes, 31, of no fixed address, admitted eight robbery and firearms charges. He was arrested in November days after the last robbery when he left fingerprints on a counter. Although deaf, he was a very good lip-reader, the court was told.

Jail term cut

The 11-year jail sentence of a man who abducted Simon Jones, 4, and hid him at a men's hostel for two months was cut to seven years by the Court of Appeal. Mr Justice Turner said that the sentence imposed on Peter May, 26, formerly of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, was "manifestly excessive".

Lecturer accused of killing man in fire

A WOMAN killed an elderly neighbour when she set fire to her flat to try to clear mounting debts, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

Lyn Payne, 31, a self-employed lecturer in computers, owed £18,386 to loan companies and a building society for mortgage arrears. Her flat had fallen in value from the £50,000 she paid for it three years before to be worth only £36,000. Warwick McKinnon, for the prosecution, said. The debts were rising at the rate of about £2,000 a month.

Ms Payne poured petrol around her fifth floor flat, locked the front door behind her and lit the fuel through the letter box. Mr McKinnon said. The explosion blew out her window, blasted her front door off its hinges and knocked her over, injuring a shoulder and a forearm. She ran from the building, in Shepherd's Bush Green, west London, screaming for help.

The explosion started a fire that trapped many of the elderly residents of the block and killed Leon Royston, 70. Firemen badly burned above the face and hands. He died in hospital three days later.

At first nobody suspected Ms Payne. Mr McKinnon said. Suspicion fell on four innocent youths who had been helping the elderly victims of the fire. They were arrested but quickly eliminated from police enquiries.

Police discovered Ms Payne's debts and also that she had recently increased insurance cover for the contents of her flat from about £17,000 to £32,500. Mr McKinnon said that they also discovered that Payne and a boy friend had moved 16 sacks full of belongings to the safety of her sister's garage on the night before the fire.

Ms Payne, who denies manslaughter and arson, was alleged to have taken clothing, make-up, records, video tapes, her birth certificate, other legal papers and a photograph of her two cats. When arrested she was said to have told detectives: "I went back to my flat, put my key in the front door when I heard a bang, I was scared."

The trial continues today.

Patients test drug aimed at halting cancer spread

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A PROMISING new anti-cancer drug that counters the disease by confining it in one part of the body has begun trials in breast cancer patients. If successful, it could be effective against a range of cancers by preventing them spreading around the body.

Scientists at the Cancer Research Campaign, which is conducting the trials, are excited by the new drug's potential but said it was too early to describe it as a breakthrough. Tests in animals have shown it to be effective against skin cancer and ovarian cancer as well as breast cancer.

Cancer's capacity to spread to other organs and tissues makes it difficult to treat. A drug which could prevent this would represent a major advance. A tumour in the breast, for example, can be removed surgically but the operation often comes too late to prevent the disease's spread and fatal outcome.

The new drug, a metalloproteinase inhibitor called BB-94, works in a different way from other cancer drugs. Instead of killing the cancer cells it counteracts an enzyme produced by the cells that breaks down the cell walls in normal tissue, allowing the cancer to spread.

Tests in the laboratory and on animals have shown that it can stop the growth of tumours.

The drug, produced by British Biotechnology, is being tested for safety on 12 patients at the Christie hospital in Manchester.

The main trial, involving 15 to 30 patients, will start in six months. Patients with breast cancer resistant to existing treatments have been selected because it is a major common cancer causing 16,000 deaths a year.

Dr Peter Lewis, director of research and development at British Biotechnology, said the aim of the treatment was to immobilise the cancer and "keep it silent". If the drug could stop the disease spreading, the body's natural defences might be able to deal with the primary tumour. In animals treated with the drug, the primary tumours had become "strangled by connective tissue", he said.

Dr Anthony Howell, who is leading the research, said the results would not be complete for at least 18 months. The drug is not generally available and even if its early promise is confirmed, it is likely to be four or five years before it is on the market.

"It would be wonderful if it stopped the disease," he said. "But it is more likely to be used in combination with other existing treatments."

Margaret Tyson, 46, who has breast cancer, is one of the first patients to try the new drug. The disease has now spread to her spine.

"There are no problems, no side effects. I feel fine," she said. Mrs Tyson, who has two children, is taking too small a dose of the drug for it to be effective, while its safety is tested. But she is keen to be included in the second phase of the trial.

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Both sides in road battle fly environmental flag

LAST month's suggestion by John MacGregor, the transport secretary, that new roads can benefit the environment will be put to the test this week.

County councillors in Norfolk meet on Thursday to decide whether the village of Letheringsett, near Holt, should have a long-awaited bypass. Both those who support the proposed road and those who oppose it maintain that their position is the environmentally correct one.

The villagers say that the constant heavy traffic is making their lives a misery and is damaging the 27 listed buildings that border the village's narrow, winding main street. The buildings include the church, an 18th century rectory, a brewery and maltings, a working watermill and an early nineteenth century bridge. According to Margaret Bird, a local historian, a bypass would protect them from further damage.

The argument against the road is that it would destroy the Glaven valley, designated an area of outstanding natural beauty. The valley has meadows that have never been treated with chemical pesticides and is a haven

for threatened wildlife, including barn owls, otters, buntings and plants such as ragged robin and marsh orchids. The villagers say that protests against the road have been orchestrated by a small group of self-styled "greens", who have bought holiday cottages in the nearby village of Sharrington and whose main purpose is to protect their own privacy.

There is no doubt that Letheringsett is afflicted by traffic. It lies on the busy A148, which runs between King's Lynn and Cromer and has a year-round flow of lorries augmented in the summer months by coaches and caravans. An average of 9,000 vehicles a day pass through in winter, rising to about 11,000 at the height of the holiday season.

Carola Chapman, a former county councillor who lives on the edge of the village, said that until recently she and her neighbours believed that the bypass was certain to be built, and that the only argument was about which of five possible routes would be chosen. That was implied in a council consultation document, published in December 1990, which stated: "By removing a considerable amount of traffic, a bypass would significantly improve the quality of life for residents."

But in October last year the council announced that it had abandoned all five routes, and would instead look at ways of improving the main road through the village. That was in spite of having declared earlier that widening the road would not be feasible because of the

proximity of buildings. Jonathan Peel, the planning committee chairman, said that the need for a bypass was not so pressing as to outweigh the environmental and landscape objections. "The case for building one in the face of all these difficulties has to be overwhelming. We don't think it is," he said.

Mr Peel is supported by the Council for the Protection of Rural England, English Nature and the Norfolk Naturalists' Trust.

The villagers fear that if the present road cannot be upgraded the council will choose the so-called "brown" route, which passes to the north of the village through scenery that is even more attractive than that affected by the "green" route to which the CPRE objects.

They are supported by Ralph Howell, MP for Norfolk North, who has promised to discuss with ministers "the extraordinary way in which this matter has been handled". They hope that Mr MacGregor, a Norfolk man, may be persuaded to intervene.

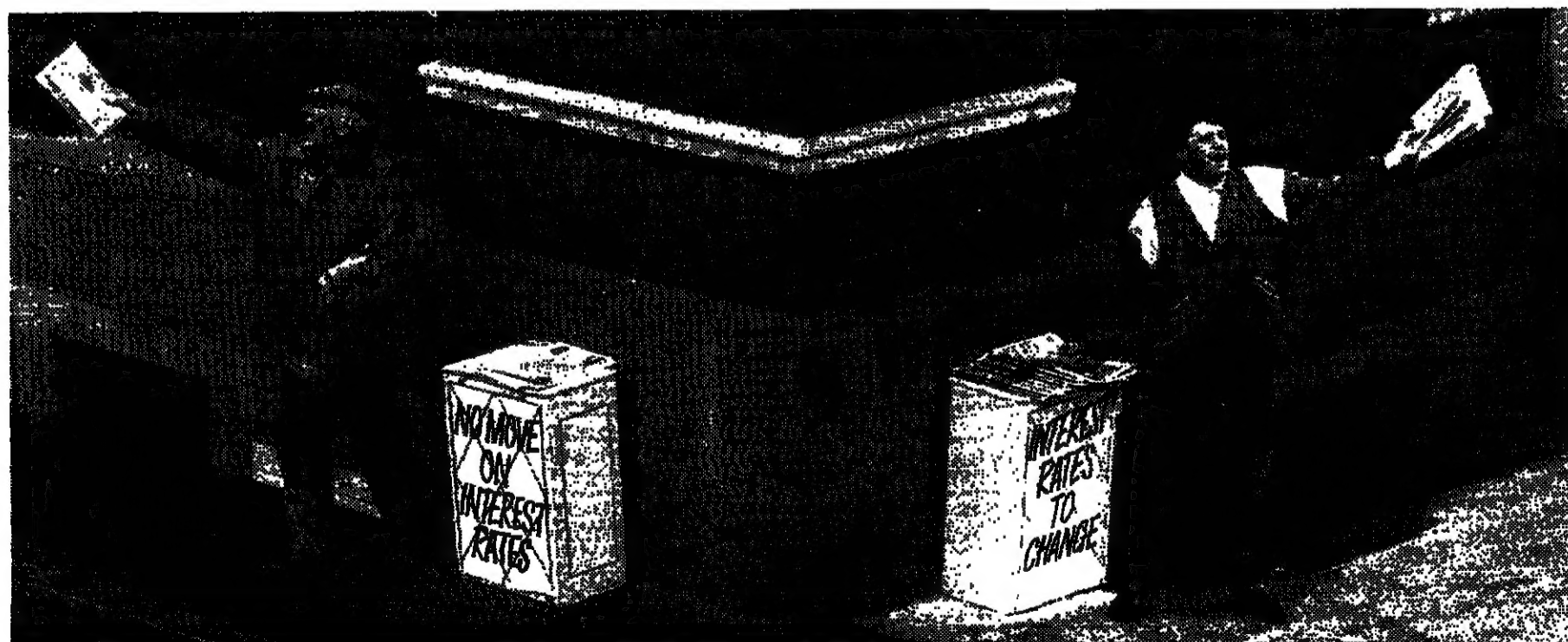


Driving force: one of the many lorries that people in Letheringsett say are damaging listed buildings



Roadside plea: sign of the villagers' anger

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Retirement at 70 is nearer for judges

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE first steps towards a younger judiciary will be taken today when government proposals to lower the retirement age for judges to 70 come before the House of Lords.

At present the retirement age is 72 for circuit judges and 75 for High Court judges, but they can apply to continue working for an extra three years. The proposals in the judicial pensions and retirement bill, which is due to be read a second time today, would probably be phased in gradually. The bill would not affect the retirement ages of judges already in office, more than half of which are older than 70.

The bill also reforms the present arrangements for judicial pensions, creating a single pension scheme for all judges throughout the United Kingdom. At present there are several schemes for different judges, some based on 15 years of service and some on 20 years or more.

Judges are treated in different ways for pension purposes with no rational basis. The rules on aggregating judicial service can work against judicial promotions. For instance, when a judge is promoted from the circuit bench to the High Court, the first pension is frozen and the judge begins again on a new scheme.

The new single pension scheme would apply to new judges, those already in schemes who want to join the new scheme, and those promoted to another judicial office covered by a different scheme.

Under the proposals the full pension, payable after 20 years of service, would be half the salary paid to the judge in whichever period of 12 months during the previous three years provided the greatest income.

Law Times, page 29, 31

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kenyans deny Ward murder

Two Kenyan rangers accused of kidnapping and murdering Julie Ward, a British tourist, made brief statements in court yesterday claiming they were totally innocent, her father said. The statements, read out in Swahili, constituted the only defence evidence produced at the High Court in Nairobi.

John Ward, from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, who led the search for his daughter's killers after her death more than three years ago, has attended nearly every hearing of the four-month trial. He said that the statements by Jonah Taji Magiroi, 28, and Peter Mutui Kipeen, 26, were the only time they had spoken during the trial.

The defence completed its evidence yesterday. The lawyers will make their closing speeches before the judge, helped by three lay assessors, considers his verdict.

Bustards back

The only great bustard eggs in Britain have been laid at Whipsnade wild animal park in Bedfordshire. A breeding programme for the birds, which became extinct in the wild in England in 1832, is to be started at Whipsnade and bustards are being sent from Russia to join the programme.

Yachtsman dies

Richard Marino, 50, of Fareham, Hampshire, who was badly burnt when his steam-powered yacht was destroyed by an explosion, died in hospital in Salisbury.

Shell shock

Ian Barker turned over a compost heap in his garden in Nottingham and uncovered two unexploded first world war shells.

Woman raped

A 19-year-old woman was raped by two men on a canal towpath in Milton Keynes early yesterday.

Children's charter launched by Scots

By KERRY GILL

WHAT was claimed as the first children's rights charter in Europe, compiled after more than two years of consultations with young people and children's organisations, was launched in Edinburgh yesterday.

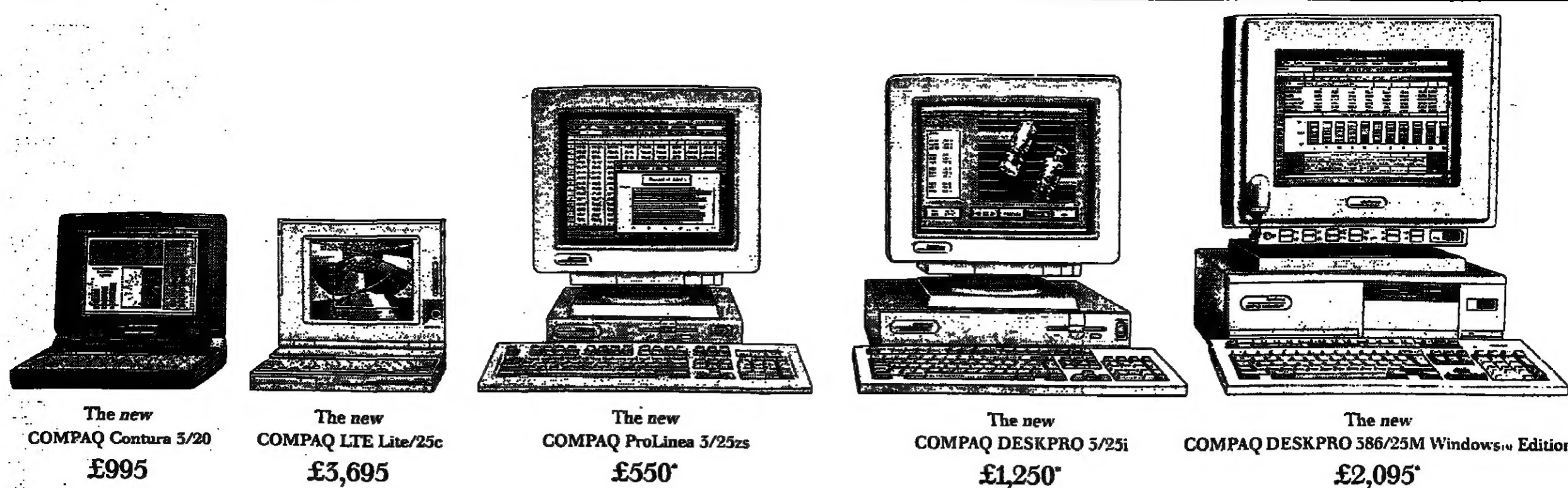
Lothian has also appointed Britain's first children's ombudsman, who will act as an independent adjudicator in any dispute involving children although his findings will have no legal force. Copies of the charter, a declaration of the rights and responsibilities of children from birth to 16, are to be distributed throughout schools, libraries, health centres and social work departments in Lothian region. The charter was launched by the regional council and based on the UN convention on the rights of the child, which

was adopted by the UN general assembly in 1989.

The region's 95,000 children will each receive a copy of the charter in the next two days. It has been drawn up by the region's education and social work departments and Lothian Health Board.

Elizabeth Maginnis, chairman of the education committee, said that organisations involved had agreed to adopt a voluntary code of practice based on a child's right to receive stipulated levels of service, to be listened to and have complaints taken seriously.

Mrs Maginnis said: "The whole purpose of the charter is about empowering young people to understand their own rights and responsibilities in society and making adults take the young person seriously."



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Claims by a former employee raise possibility that ministers knew about dead tycoon's crooked career

Spy centre 'monitored Maxwell money deals'

The alleged Maxwell connection has brought the mysterious GCHQ into the public gaze, reports Michael Evans

THE investigation into Robert Maxwell's fraudulent commercial career has entered a new phase with allegations that GCHQ, the government's communications headquarters in Cheltenham, had been monitoring the dead tycoon's shady money transfers.

The claim raises the question: did ministers know what Maxwell was up to? The prime source of the allegations is Robin Robison, who for a brief period worked as an administrative officer on the Cabinet Office's joint intelligence committee (JIC), Whitehall's top intelligence co-ordinating organisation. He says he saw signals intelligence material on Maxwell.

If Maxwell was targeted by GCHQ, there could have been a number of client departments interested, including the Treasury, the Department of Trade and Industry, and possibly MI6, monitoring Maxwell's personal relationships with the Soviet and East European leaders.

It is most unlikely, however, that Maxwell's name would have been passed to ministers through the different intelligence layers, unless there was a specific need for them to know. There was no national security connection.

Signals or electronic intelligence is big business. Britain employs at least 15,000 men and women in the different intelligence branches, of which about 11,000 work for GCHQ, 7,000 in Gloucestershire. GCHQ eavesdropping stations are also dotted around the world.

Little is known about GCHQ. Although the public has become acquainted with the achievements of the wartime codebreakers at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, the precursor to GCHQ, the peacetime role of the government's eavesdropping centre has become a focus of attention on only a few occasions in recent years. The discovery of a high level KGB agent, Geoffrey Prime, among the senior linguists at GCHQ and his

subsequent conviction for spying at the Old Bailey in November 1982 raised fears of lax security at the Cheltenham base. The decision several years later by the government to ban trade unions at GCHQ put the eavesdropping station into the public domain once again. Allegations were made in the Iraqi supergun affair that the intelligence services had prior notice of Baghdad's secret plan. Yet the mysteries of GCHQ remain.

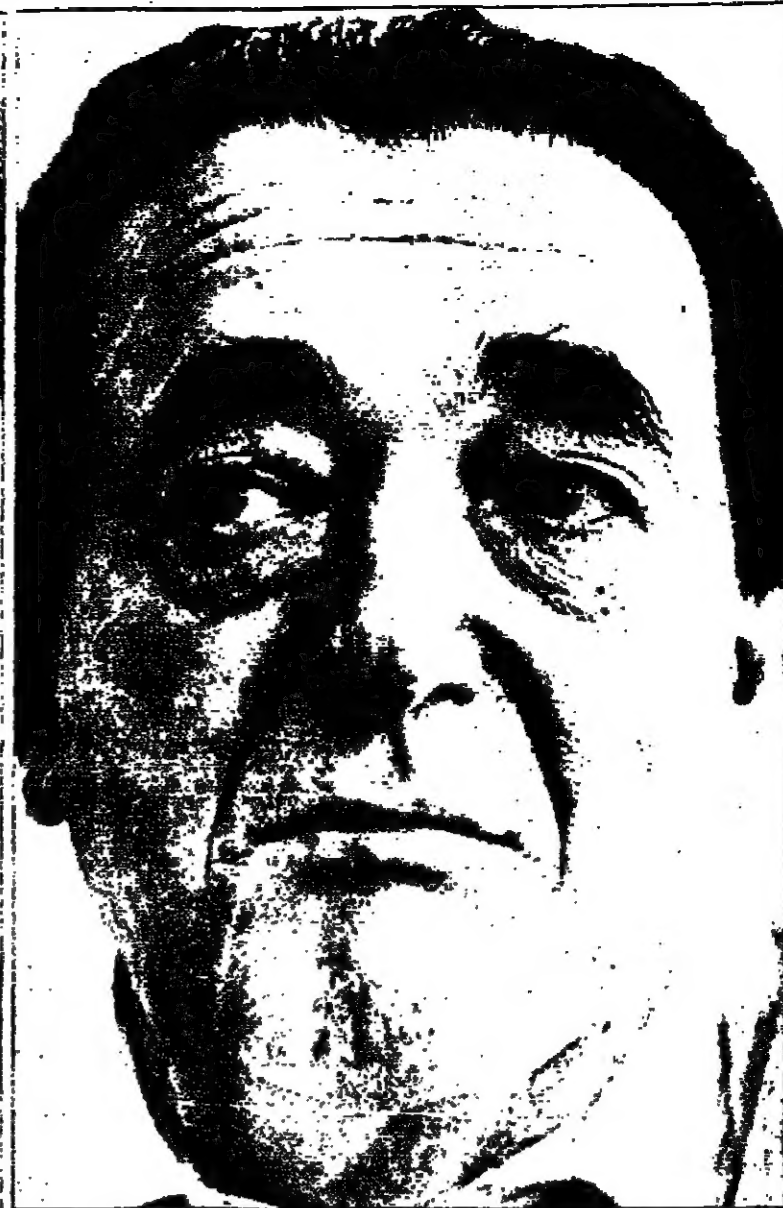
Today, the eavesdropping centre which intercepts radio and communications traffic is the most expensive and most productive of Britain's three intelligence agencies.

However, the priorities of GCHQ have changed. Instead of focusing almost exclusively on diplomatic and military traffic, there is more interest in economic and commercial intelligence, now that the threat to Britain's national security is less pronounced. Codebreaking of encrypted diplomatic traffic is also much more difficult because of the rapid advance of coding technology. So, where once an analyst at GCHQ might have dealt with a pile of messages between an embassy and its foreign ministry, much of the traffic analysed today concerns intra-national business transactions and corporate dealings.

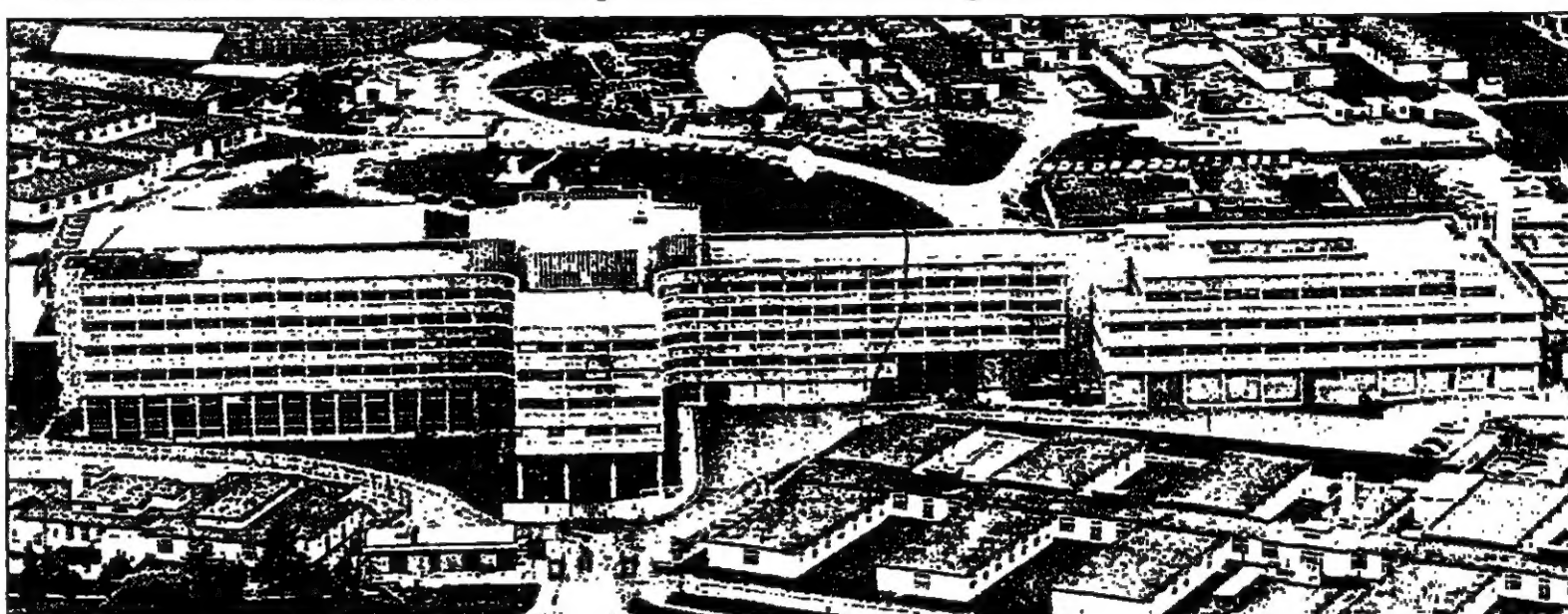
An indication of the change in thinking was given with the publication of the Interception of Communications Act 1985, when MPs were surprised to discover that the Department of Trade and Industry was authorised to issue warrants for phone tapping.

GCHQ which grew out of the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park and which moved to Cheltenham in 1952, comes under the aegis of the foreign office, providing a substantial proportion of Britain's total foreign intelligence from intercepted radio and communications traffic.

The centre is also responsible for the security of British civil and military communi-



The watcher and the watched: Robison, left, who says he saw material on Maxwell, right, and below, the GCHQ centre at Cheltenham



cations. GCHQ is split into two large centres, the better known one situated outside the Gloucestershire town and consisting of a long five-storey cement building surrounded by small huts with large dish-shaped antennae at the rear of the buildings.

The other main centre is several miles away, on the other side of the town. It is a large redbrick building with another three-storey premises behind which houses many of the computers.

The largest of the directorates at GCHQ is signals intelligence operations and requirements, which receives "target requests" from the various "clients" which include MI5, MI6, the Ministry of Defence, the foreign office, the DTI and the Treasury.

According to James Bamford, author of *The Puzzle Palace* which uncovered the secrets of GCHQ and the American equivalent, the National Security Agency, when it was published in 1982, this directorate is re-

sponsible for passing on the finished product to the customers.

GCHQ does not have the staff to cope with the transcribing, decoding, analysing and packaging of all telephone and cable traffic, so they have to be selective in their targeting. Even the most advanced computers could not cope with the millions of phone calls, cables and telexes each day, although voice recognition systems are being developed.

Once a section of signals traffic is designated, say, between certain companies or between named individuals or between two capitals, material intercepted by GCHQ's network of listening antennae throughout Britain and abroad is taken on tape and fed through computers which recognise key words and names.

The computers, based on linked IBM mainframes and a Cray supercomputer, decrypt communications where necessary. Linguists and analysts turn them into intelli-

gence reports. Churchill used to insist on seeing raw intelligence material during the war when the codebreakers at Bletchley had broken the German Enigma cypher machines and produced their flow of "Ultra" intelligence. Today, however, ministers never see raw intelligence.

The prime minister and members of the cabinet defence committee receive a "red book" of sanitised intelligence. This material will have gone through several layers of analysis and weeding, ultimately by the Cabinet Office's own current intelligence groups (CIGs) and the JIC, the final arbiter of intelligence.

Britain's peacetime involvement in signals intelligence goes back to 1947 when the UK-USA agreement was signed, bringing under the same intelligence umbrella the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Maxwell monitored, page 1

Victims want judicial enquiry

By Jill Sherman
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MAXWELL pensioners yesterday called for a judicial enquiry into how Whitehall departments and financial institutions failed to stop their pension funds being plundered.

They are also pressing the social security department to spell out whether new pensioners would benefit from the £2.5 million rescue scheme announced by Peter Lilley, social security secretary last week.

Ken Trench, chairman of the pensioners' action group, said that an increasing number of allegations were now surfacing which would point the finger at the government and the Bank of England for failing to act.

"We want an independent judicial enquiry to pin down the failings in the system. And if the fault is shown to lie with government the government should accept full responsibility for supporting the pensioners who have lost out."

Pensioners wanted the government to take over responsibility for failed Maxwell pension schemes and guarantee pension payments until stolen assets were recovered.

Mr Trench said it was unclear whether new pensioners would benefit from the rescue scheme and it was still doubtful whether the missing millions would be found.

A social security spokesman said the DSS could not guarantee that new pensioners would have access to the £2.5 million "lifeline".

"The purpose is to enable them to continue to meet their obligations until the courts decide on the ownership of disputed former pension fund assets," said the spokesman. "Whether they make payments to new as well as to existing pensioners is up to them. It is not a matter for the DSS."

The latest allegations about the intelligence services looking into Maxwell's affairs was another argument for an independent enquiry, said Mr Trench.

"Several government departments are looking at various aspects of the Maxwell affair, but nothing is going to appear for months," he said. "The pensioners appear to have been let down by every relevant government department. Now the Treasury and the Bank of England and the Cabinet Office appear to be implicated as well."

Alf Morris, Labour MP for Manchester Wythenshawe, said the reports of intelligence involvement would strengthen the case for an investigation by the Ombudsman. Pensioners groups are now considering putting in a formal complaint to the ombudsman alleging maladministration by the government.

Mr Morris, who has been campaigning on behalf of the pensioners, argues that if the government knew about Mr Maxwell's business dealings two years ago, the pension funds could have been protected then.

Secrets work clashed with Quaker views

ROBIN Robison, the man at the centre of the latest allegations in the Maxwell affair, left his job with the Cabinet Office's joint intelligence committee at the end of 1989 on a point of conscience. As a Quaker, he felt his work was against his religious principles (Michael Evans writes).

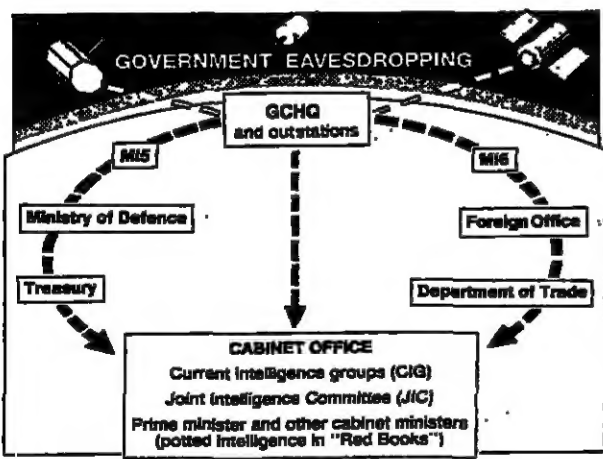
Mr Robison, a 28-year-old graduate, joined the civil service in 1985 and was transferred to the committee, Whitehall's top intelligence co-ordinating secretariat, in 1988. Although only an administrative officer, the sensitivity of his work required a high security grading.

He would have processed classified material but in a clerical capacity, not as an analyst. Even so, he had to be positively vetted by the security authorities before being approved for the job.

Soon after leaving Whitehall, he began to work for the Society of Friends, the Quaker body based at Friends House in Euston Road, London. Because of his experience in government, a special unit called the Quaker Committee for Truth and Integrity in Public Affairs was set up and Mr Robison was asked to be its secretary.

Last year, he expressed surprise that he had been recruited to the joint intelligence committee. He said he told the authorities of his pacifist views. His Quaker committee has dropped for the time being a plan to prepare a private member's bill to make the security and intelligence services more accountable.

Mr Robison, who lives in Brighton, was unavailable for comment yesterday.



Top role beckons old theatre site

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

THE site of the Rose Theatre, where Shakespeare acted 400 years ago and where three years ago Dame Peggy Ashcroft stood arm-in-arm with James Fox, Ian McKellen and other actors to prevent bulldozers destroying the remains, could be the seat of David Mellor's new heritage ministry.

Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, who led the campaign to save the Rose, asked Mr Mellor in a parliamentary question yesterday if he had considered moving into the empty block which now straddles the preserved remains.

"There could be no better place in terms of greatness," the MP said. The secretary of state replied that he was prepared to look at any available

property in Mr Hughes's constituency.

Rose Court was built over the old playhouse, parts of the stage of which survived in the boggy Bankside soil, after a hard-fought agreement to sheath and build over it on stilts on the understanding that it would be unearthed again when money was available. It cost the developer, Imry Merchant, an extra £10 million to do so and a delay which brought completion of the 11-storey block, at a cost of about £40 million, into the property slump. Since then it has remained empty.

Martin Myers, chief executive of the company, now called Imry Holdings, said: "When one thinks of all the people who were screaming at us at the time, and all the trouble we went to to save the theatre, I think we could do with a little help now." Rose Court was, for instance, a better proposition than Canary Wharf, he said.

The 157,000 sq ft of offices are for rent at £25 a square metre, an annual rent of £3,925 million. "But that's the up-front price," Mr Myers said. As the company wanted to let to a single tenant, if that tenant was the ministry that was "unlikely to

be the final rent". For a ministry that rent could be halved. The property, "conveniently located" with a view of the Thames, has the Tower of London and the City to the right and St Paul's cathedral and Westminster to the left, Mr Myers said.

What Mr Hughes and his Rose Theatre Trust are hoping for is an acceleration of the public presentation of the Rose itself. A month ago he wrote to the prime minister asking for £75,000 to pay for research into the conservation, further excavation and display of the theatre, and perhaps a hint that there might be more help with the

£3 million it is likely to cost to build a museum around it. He has had no reply.

The Department of National Heritage is squaring in the Cabinet Office, with staff overflowing into temporary accommodation near Haymarket. Its most likely permanent home was thought to be the energy department's fairly new building in Palace Street, but Mr Mellor has said that there are several possibilities under consideration.

Mr Mellor's staff of 350 could comfortably take up half of Rose Court, Mr Myers believes. The rest could be the next headquarters for English Heritage if the new chairman, Jocelyn Stevens, and his fellow commissioners decide to move from their expensive apartments in Savile Row, creating a heritage enclave on Southwark's Thames embankment.

Rose Court is almost exactly opposite another building important to Britain's cultural heritage whose use has been a matter of heated debate. Somerset House now has the Courtauld Institute in its north block, built by William Chambers, but the rest, built by Smirke, is occupied by the Inland Revenue.



Hughes: call to move heritage ministry

Man held over stolen yachts

By Ray Clancy

A FRENCHMAN suspected of jostling across the Channel in luxury yachts has been detained in Essex. He is being questioned in Cornwall today.

Thierry Joubat, 21, of Kernion in Brittany, was detained by Romford police after a break in at a sports centre. Detectives on both sides of the Channel have been investigating several yacht thefts. Three have been stolen from the French coast and found abandoned in the Helford River, Cornwall. Others, stolen from moorings on the south coast, were also abandoned and one was wrecked off the Spanish coast.

Devon and Cornwall police will ask Mr Joubat about the disappearance of *Noah's Ark*, a £100,000 craft stolen from St Just-in-Roseland near Falmouth and found abandoned in Lulworth Cove, Dorset. He will also be questioned about stolen marine equipment.

Hampshire police also want to question him.

Arts body tries to salvage reputation with new start

The heavily criticised Arts Foundation has a new director and a fresh approach. Simon Tait reports

THE Arts Foundation, launched a year ago to create "a new image for the arts" but received with a chorus of disapproval by the arts world, has been relaunched with a new director, new offices and a more pragmatic policy of supporting innovative art.

Russell Willis Taylor took up her post two weeks ago and moved into two rooms in Bucklersbury, near the Bank of England, last week to administer the foundation set up with a £1.1 million bequest to the Arts Council.

She has a staff of one and the offices are a gift from the owner. She apologised for not having a photocopier, "but next week we're getting a monk with a quill pen to help".

Lord Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, announced the new foundation at a lavish Docklands party last May and introduced the first director, Stephen Bayley. It was assailed immediately with criticism that its aims were too confused, the foundation remote, that the Arts Council's own efforts on behalf of experimental art were being slighted.

The foundation had been run from offices in Mr

Bayley's consultancy and when he resigned in December it became not only leaderless but homeless: some said it had always been rudderless. Mrs Taylor said her first priority was to establish a firm policy. "I think the foundation's purpose was mis-stated then," she said. "We have the luxury of making choices, but there is a big difference between that and doing whatever we want, which was the message then. You have to be seen to be sensible about giving away money."

Originally, there was no need to apply because the foundation would find the worthy recipients. That goes from the new policy. "We want anybody who has something to offer to apply, and if we have to say 'no' I believe it is our job to tell the applicants why and help them in that way. I want them to telephone me," Mrs Taylor said. One

original aim had been to raise £20 million from private patronage, another to revive the *salon des refus* idea of an exhibition for work rejected by established institutions. The launch brochure expressed the wish to establish facilities such as a recording studio, a new gallery "to break the cartel of the art trade", a television programme about patronage, and even a record label.

Very little has been raised, and the simple aim on the minimalist sheet the new director is formulating - for distribution to arts organisations, community centres, public libraries - is to help artistic experiment with money, advice or introduction.

"A lot of things have happened since the foundation was set up. There will now be a lottery, and the Arts has come into its own, so that major capital projects are not the greatest need for us."

"There is continuing concern about money for innovation. In the 1980s money was moved away from risk-taking art and towards honing business skills. We have to help to change that," Mrs Taylor said.

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Victims want judicial enquiry

MANAGERIAL homeowners responsible for a judicial decision on how Wisconsin's department and financial institutions should be treated in the event of a state bankruptcy.

They are also pressing the second courts department to decide whether new provisions would benefit from the \$1 billion provision authorized by the state's constitution.

Other results of the state's bankruptcy plan will be seen later this year.

But, in his chairman's report, the president's address to the group, and in an interview, members of the caucus were more forthcoming. They would permit the Times at the convention to find the Bank of England and the Bank of France, and to find out all the rest.

"We are independent," declared the majority in the banking group, "in the taking of the vote. And if the truth is shown, the world will remember the group should accept its responsibility for a support of the 'international' world."

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Consumers likely to see bills rising as drought forces watchdog to issue ultimatum

Water firms threatened with ban on river supplies

WATER companies will be banned from taking water from drought-hit rivers and boreholes unless they agree to take less water, repair old pipelines to reduce waste, and install domestic meters in areas "under stress", the National Rivers Authority said yesterday. The move could lead to higher prices for consumers.

The regulatory authority gave Thames Water, which serves seven million customers in and around London, until September 1 to accept a limit of 14 million gallons a day on the amount of water taken from the catchment of the Darent in Kent. This is 70 per cent less than Thames Water is entitled to take under its current licence. The Darent catchment includes the Dartford and Sevenoaks conurbations.

Lord Crickhowell, NRA chairman, said that this limit would hold water usage in the Darent valley at its present level because Thames had not made full use of its licence. The company had also been given until March 31 of next year to agree to reduce abstraction to 10.7 million gallons a day by the end of 1995.

"We have said to Thames Water: if you will not do it voluntarily, we will do it unilaterally," he said. "The River Darent is one of the worst cases we have got and it is substantially caused by over-abstraction and not just the drought. We think probably it will be necessary over a period to have present abstractions from the Darent."

About 40 rivers in England are affected by over-abstraction, according to the NRA. "We are not prepared to wait a minute longer than is absolutely necessary to restore these long-suffering rivers to their former healthy flows," Lord Crickhowell said. "A great deal of work has already been done with the water

Drastic action is being taken to restore exploited rivers to their former healthy flows, Michael Hornsby reports

companies to tackle this problem, but what I want to see now are firm target dates set to complete whatever action is required for each of the rivers."

The Darent, which rises near Westerham and flows into the Thames west of Dartford, is one of the NRA's 20 top priority rivers for remedial action. Thames Water takes all its water in the Darent catchment from boreholes that tap into water-bearing underground rock strata known as aquifers.

Other rivers on the critical list include the Piddle in Dorset and the Wallop Brook in Hampshire.

Lord Crickhowell said progress had been made with Wessex Water and Southern Water in talks aimed at reducing ab-

stractions from both these rivers.

In future, Lord Crickhowell said, the NRA would only issue abstraction licences if water companies committed themselves to firm timetables for reducing leakage and introducing domestic metering of water use in "areas under stress". The NRA could not accept the present levels of waste and water unaccounted for.

The NRA's action will be test its legal powers and the right of water companies to financial compensation for expenditure incurred in finding alternative sources of supply. Lord Crickhowell said he was confident of the NRA's legal position and ability to handle compensation, but acknowledged that Thames

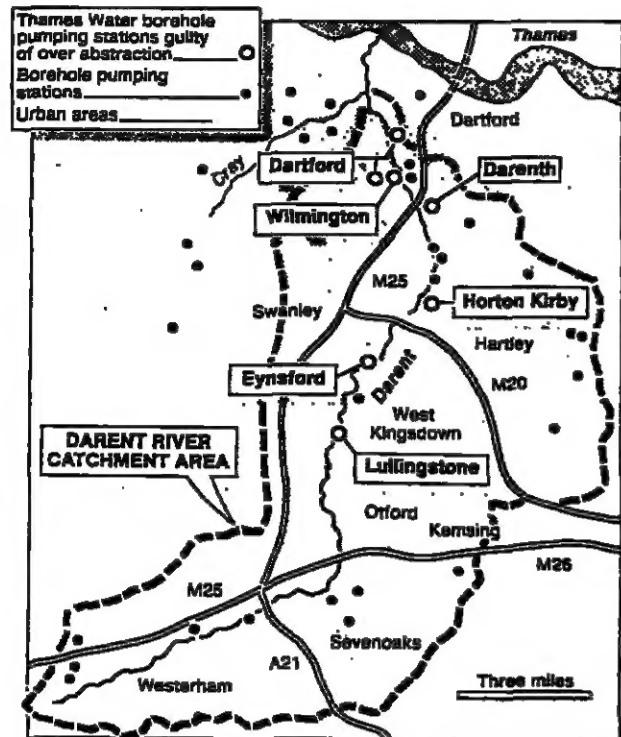
Water could appeal to the environment secretary and that there would then have to be a public enquiry.

Thames Water said yesterday that it was surprised by the NRA's action because the rate of wastage in the Darent catchment area was only 15 per cent, the lowest in the country. In the Thames Water area as a whole the leakage rate had been reduced over the past three years from 23 per cent to 18 per cent, which compared with a national average of 25 per cent. The company said it had also invested £250 million in building a new "ring main" round London to enable water to be moved from surplus to deficit areas.

The Water Services Association of England and Wales, which represents the water companies, said: "The companies have to have sufficient water resources to meet the needs of their customers. If they have to open new resources to replace existing resources, then prices would have to rise to pay for them."

The Country Landowners Association said the NRA should have acted sooner. The Council for the Protection of Rural England welcomed the move to protect the Darent but said action was now urgently required to save the other affected rivers.

The top 20 priority rivers, which the NRA started investigating in February last year, are: the H12, Hoffer Brook, Slea, and Upper Waveney in the NRA's Anglian area; Dover Beck, Worle, and Battlefield Brook in Severn Trent area; Misbourne, Ver, Pang, Wey, and Letcombe Brook in Thames area; Darent and Wallop Brook, Southern area; Piddle, Allen, and Wey, Wessex area; Wharfe (two locations), Yorkshire region; and the Lowther, North West area.



Leading article, page 15



Sick river: a family fishing, above, in the Darent in Kent, while two miles away the same river is dry, below



Islands look seawards to keep thirst at bay

THE Isles of Scilly are turning to desert technology to defeat the drought.

Faced with a dwindling supply of natural water and an annual influx of thirsty tourists that can treble the population of 1,500, the local council has given the go-ahead for a desalination plant, which will turn seawater into drinking water. It should be installed in about seven weeks.

The Council of the Isles of Scilly had examined building a pipeline from other islands or bringing in water by boat. Given the continuing water shortage in the South of England the council has plumped for a technology familiar in the world's arid regions but rare in temperate climes.

Brian Lowen, the council's chief technical officer, said: "We have had four dry winters and the summers have also been, in the main, dry. Without the plant we could have run out in August."

The £200,000 plant, supplied by Weir Westgarth of Glasgow which provided similar systems to troops during the Gulf war, is to be built at Mount Tudden on St Mary's. About 150,000 gallons of seawater will be used to supply 50,000 gallons of drinking water daily, about a third of peak summertime needs. The plant uses a method known as reverse osmosis in which seawater is filtered at

high pressure through special membranes. Although the project is funded partially by a European Community grant and is expected to be partly run by electricity from a wind turbine, the scheme is likely to increase local water bills by about a half, Mr Lowen said. He calculated the cost of the water at £8.30 per 1,000 gallons or £1.82 per cubic metre (220 gallons) which compares with conventional tap water at 30p per cubic metre.

Because of the cost, the water industry on the mainland is, at least publicly, reluctant to solve the South's drought in the same way. Desalination is an energy intensive process which, in the Middle East, can be justified by the relatively low fuel costs and more acute need, the industry says. In Britain, the industry's preferred routes include reducing leakages and building more southern reservoirs.

Paul Garrett, of the Water Services Association, described large desalination plants as "eyesores requiring a lot of land" for which it would be hard to secure planning permission. But makers of plant say that the costs of desalination have been unfairly represented. They estimate that drinking water from a big plant, possibly linked to an existing or planned coastal power station and capable of producing five million gallons a day, could cost 50p to 55p a cubic metre.

Environmental concerns are also starting to be registered over the vast tracts of land that could disappear under proposed reservoirs, such as the 375-hectare Broad Oak scheme, north of Canterbury, being considered by Mid Kent, Southern and Folkestone and District water companies. Some people say that, if the present low rainfall levels continue in the South, reservoirs could anyway prove to be white elephants.

At least one water engineer believes that desalination may be eventually needed on the mainland. Graham Cross, engineering manager at Folkestone and District, said yesterday: "We are considering desalination as a future option. It is being recognised by the industry as a suitable source, the only doubt is when. The big question is economics but these are changing all the time."

Wages slip-up delights staff

By KERRY GILL

ALMOST 500 white collar workers and senior officials were surprised at the weekend to discover that they had been paid double their monthly salaries by the cash-starved Western Isles council.

The same council managed to lose £24 million last summer in the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. This time the council, to the delight of 460 employees, managed to accidentally pay a total of about £500,000 into their bank accounts.

Robert Bennie, the new finance director, who took up his post last month, was reluctant yesterday to discuss the amount over-paid, but admitted: "Half a million pounds is about right." The blunder, he said, was not particularly important given that he was busy monitoring

developments in the fight by the council and other creditors to recover money lost in the BCCI collapse.

The error was blamed on a gremlin in the council's new computerised financial system, which, according to Mr Bennie, "sometimes still does things we are not quite expecting". He said that a "particular point" had been missed when the system was established. On Friday, the system decided to instruct the Royal Bank of Scotland to over-pay a quarter of the council's employees. Mr Bennie said he was confident that most of the cash would be recovered from staff.

The Islanders could be forgiven for a certain lack of confidence in *Comhairle nan Eilean*, the Gaelic name of the council. This latest hiccup follows the 15 per cent pay award to Dr George

Macleod, the council's chief executive, who is on final warning of dismissal for his part in the BCCI loss. Dr Macleod is to take early retirement.

Already, islanders face having to pay an annual £2.7 million for the next 30 years to service the loan taken out to cover the BCCI loss, a massive burden considering that the average income in the Western Isles is lower than anywhere else in the United Kingdom.

Many have also protested about poll tax blunders in which the council keeps chasing people who have already paid. A man from Lewis, who has paid all his tax, has had one reminder and a final warning followed by a summary warrant. After being sent three apologies he has received another final warning.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Short win boosts England

England improved their position slightly in the world Chess Olympics in Manila when Nigel Short won a difficult sixth round game against Portisch of Hungary (Raymond Krene writes). That gave England a win against Hungary by 2½ points to 1½.

In round seven England drew 2-2 with Armenia. The Russian team crushed the United States team by 3½ points to a half. In that game, the world champion, Gary Kasparov, soundly defeated Gata Kamsky, formerly of the Soviet Union and now America's leading player.

After seven of 14 rounds, Russia has 22½ points out of 28; Holland is on 19; Uzbekistan, Georgia, and the Ukraine 18½. England shares sixth place on 18.

Tebbit surgery

Lord Tebbit, 60, went into hospital yesterday for surgery in connection with injuries sustained in the 1984 Brighton hotel bombing, his office said. He had suffered severe pain while campaigning in the general election. The hospital's name is being withheld for security reasons. Lord Tebbit, who is due to have an operation today, said that he was undergoing "necessary bodywork".

Schools rise

An increase in the number of Jewish schools in the former Soviet Union has been recorded by the London-based Institute of Jewish Affairs. The Jewish research body said that 100 day schools, Sunday schools and seminars were serving the estimated 1.5 million Jews. Jewish education was totally suppressed in the 50 years before Mikhail Gorbachev's accession to power.

Wind farm ban

Wind farms are likely to be banned from the Peak National Park as being too intrusive, under the park's ten-year structure plan. Small-scale turbines may be allowed in low-lying areas if they are not unsightly. Big-quarry extensions, new roads through the park and new hotels are also ruled out by the plan, which is to go on display as part of a public consultation exercise.

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Resilient Kinnock rises above the despair of election defeat



Kinnock realistic about the enormity of his task

Neil Kinnock was ready for what happened to him on April 9 this year. He was probably less prepared for the confusion yesterday over his possible appointment as president of the Confederation of European Socialist Parties. Mr Kinnock has never hidden from himself the possibility that one day he might have to activate a fresh political career, and for some time it looked as if yesterday might mark the start.

In private in recent years Mr Kinnock was realistic about the enormity of the task facing him. In that final week of the campaign, when the polls suggested otherwise, Mr Kinnock sensed that he was not quite going to make it and confided as much to those closest to him. He felt in his bones that the national mood for change that he would require to overturn such a large Conservative majority was not quite there. He had also decided

In the last months of his leadership, the Labour leader is trying to carve out a new political career, Philip Webster writes

years ago that if he lost a second time he would relinquish the leadership. Again, those in his closest circle knew that.

When Mr Kinnock told his Islay party in the early hours of April 10 that he dedicated himself to the service of his constituents "and in any capacity whatsoever to the people of my country", it was the speech of a man who knew already what he had to do.

Perhaps because he was mentally prepared for disappointment Mr Kinnock has not sunk into the black despair that has afflicted many in his party. All who know him well testify to his emotional and physical resilience. After the

election, when most senior Labour people appeared bereaved, Mr Kinnock was forever trying to cheer up his friends and colleagues. For some time they thought it was an act: now they doubt whether it was.

One of his longest-serving aides, amazed at his bearing after the election, asked him: "Are you really all right?" He replied that it was a "disappointment, not a death". Perhaps Mr Kinnock was remembering 1983 when, Brahms playing on the stereo, his car overturned on the M4. According to a friend the doctor who examined him afterwards found no trace of post-traumatic stress.

The speed at which he announced his decision to go surprised some; but to him there was little point in allowing speculation to build when his mind was already made up.

He had hoped to go this month but was overruled by his party. Now July 18, when he officially hands over the reins, almost certainly to John Smith, cannot come soon enough. The undisciplined behaviour of his party since the election has probably enhanced that sentiment.

In all the private meetings of the national executive and the Parliamentary Labour Party that he has attended since the election Mr Kinnock's demeanour, according to insiders, has been that of a man who wants to get out of the hot seat as quickly as possible. "He has been even rougher than usual with the awkward squad, contemptuous of point-scoring by people trying to disown policies to which they agreed, and very impatient with people crawling over the election campaign at every opportunity."

Mr Kinnock has urged the party to hold a formal inquest at the appropriate time and not to take a piecemeal approach. The inquest comes on Thursday, and he is planning a big contribution.

After more than eight years in what is probably the hardest job in politics, there is inevitably an element of liberation in Mr Kinnock's chirpy mood of late. His interest in many things outside politics, most notably his family, the theatre and the cinema, has helped to ease the burden.

He combined his announcement of his decision to quit with the surprise news that he would continue to stand for the

national executive committee. He wants to remain involved in pushing forward the internal democratic reforms that began under his leadership and has decided that he can best do that by getting elected to the constituency section of the NEC. One of the last acts of his leadership has been to insist on pressing ahead with changes to end the role of the unions in the selection and reselection of Labour MPs, despite the opposition of senior union leaders.

The last two months have not been easy for Mr Kinnock and the next will not be any better. He has tried to take a "business as usual" approach to his remaining weeks in office. But he has ruled the party with an iron hand; now, unavoidably because he is on his way out, his authority is diminished and there are plenty of people who want to remind him of that fact.

MARTIN BEDDALL

German offer fails to end hostility over 48-hour week

BY TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS AND NICHOLAS WOOD

BRITAIN yesterday hardened its opposition to European Community proposals for a 48-hour working week in the form of an olive branch from Germany.

German diplomats in Brussels disclosed that they are prepared to give Britain a voluntary limit on hours for the next ten years, only then making it compulsory. This proposal goes some way to meeting the suggestion put forward by Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, who has said that Britain might be able to accept the working time directive if employees are free to work longer than 48 hours if they wish.

However, senior employment department officials yesterday played down speculation that a breakthrough might be imminent. They

said that Britain could not accept a "time lapse" clause for full introduction of the directive. One Whitehall aide said that in the light of the Danish referendum rejecting the Maastricht treaty, the climate in London had changed. The working time directive was seen as symbolic of the kind of European centralism that the government was determined to resist. Ministers appear concerned that a surrender could trigger a big backbench revolt.

"The Danish vote has hardened Gillian Shephard's position against the directive," one employment department source said. Of the ten-year deadline, he added: "If they try to enforce that, ministers won't be able to sign up to it because they will be giving away the principle of a mandatory limit on the working week."

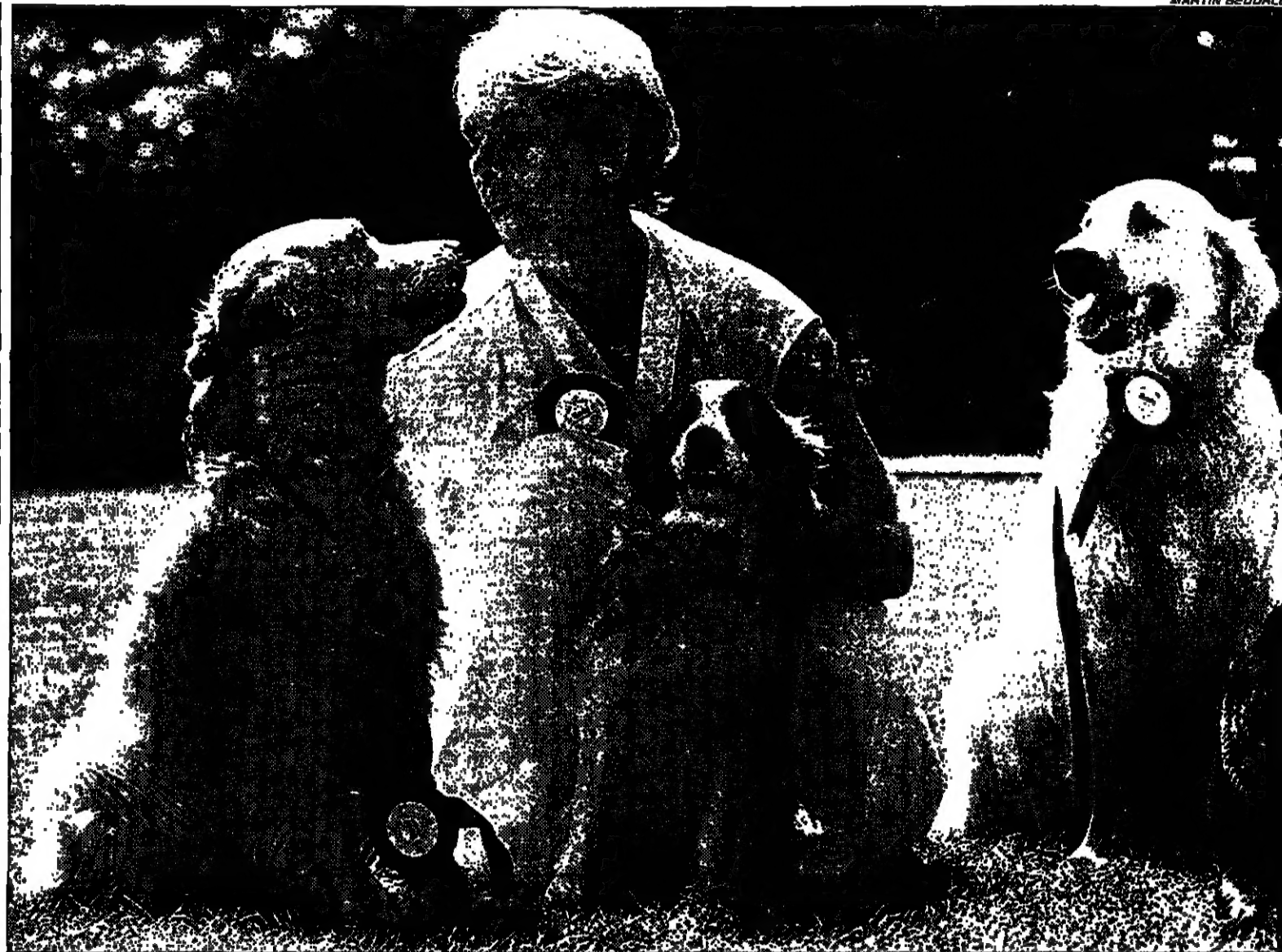
It is understood that Mrs Shephard will resist the idea of a deadline at the council of ministers meeting on June 24 scheduled to vote on the long-running dispute between Britain and its EC partners. Employment department sources did accept that the fact that the Germans were talking of an initial voluntary period "might be a step in the right direction".

One German official involved in the working week negotiations was enthusiastic about the possible compromise. He said that once Britain became accustomed to the idea of working time restrictions, it would fall into line with the rest of the EC.

Despite the Danish referendum, Britain still faces isolation at next week's meeting if Mrs Shephard sticks to her guns. Because the 48-hour working week proposals are being considered as health and safety rules, they can be passed by qualified majority voting.

□ The Irish government yesterday began its final push for a yes vote in the Maastricht referendum on Thursday, with a renewed attack on the attempt by the pro-life lobby to link the treaty with legalising abortion (Edward Gorman writes).

Albert Reynolds, the prime minister, said abortion issues were quite separate from the economic and political matters which lie at the heart of the treaty. He added that reports from his party's campaign manager indicated an "overwhelmingly positive" reaction to the treaty around the country. He said people were beginning to see through "some of these scare-mongering tactics and the sort of mischievous stories that are being put about about things that are supposed to be in the treaty."



Dogs' day: the Tory MP Angela Rumbold and her King Charles's spaniel Charlie, launch an ITV "Dogathon" charity event yesterday

Tories unveil election inquest

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative party yesterday blamed a collapse in Liberal-Democrat support for John Major's failure to win a bigger majority at the general election.

In an analysis of the result, party officials attributed their 21-seat majority to winning the arguments over Labour on the economy, taxation, leadership and positive policies for the future.

They said that Labour was hampered by the steady shrinking of its traditional power base. More than half of working class voters abandoned the party for the third successive election and Labour failed to capture the votes of women and young people. Voters were also turned off by Labour's "phony" shadow budget, its "farical" economic recovery package and saw the rest of its policies as a recipe for decline.

The Tory study comes as Labour's ruling national executive committee prepares to conduct its own inquest. About 80 post-mortem reports have been made to Labour HQ from different parts of the party. The NEC will focus on the final report from Larry Whitty, the general secretary, pinpointing "fear of Labour" as the key element in the defeat. An NEC report will then be drawn up for the party's annual conference in the autumn.

Thursday's meeting will also discuss polls taken immediately after the election where ten groups of wavering Tory voters were questioned about why they stuck with the Conservative party instead of voting Labour or Liberal Democrat. Labour's taxation and economic policies; fear of rising interest rates; and the unpopularity of Neil Kinnock, were all cited.

Meanwhile, Labour's organisation committee suspended 127 Coventry party members yesterday pending further investigation into their alleged support of the rebel campaigns for Dave Nellist and John Hughes.

□ Larry Whitty, the Labour party general secretary, asks us to make clear that the report he is to present to the National Executive Committee on the party's general election defeat does not name, as reported yesterday, individual members of the Shadow Communications Agency.

Tory rebels join up

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE divisions over Europe are spawning more groups than a rock festival. For many years, backbenchers had a straight choice between the anti of the Conservative European Reform Group (CERG), whose best known figures are Jonathan Aitken and Sir Teddy Taylor, and the Conservative Group for Europe (CGE), championed by Hugh Dykes and David Hunt, the Welsh secretary. But as Brussels has pressed the case for closer union, the forces ranged against it have grown.

The Euro-sceptics can boast at least four other groups dedicated to stopping what they regard as the conveyor belt to a European super-state. They are the self-styled "suicide squad" of 22 MPs who voted against the second reading of the Maastricht bill; the Bruges Group and the parliamentary Friends of Bruges; and the Thatcherite No Turning Back Group.

Michael Spicer and James Cran have emerged as the leaders of the suicide squad. The Bruges Group and the

Friends of Bruges are most closely identified with Bill Cash, the Tory MP for Stafford. The Bruges Group, which concentrates on extra-parliamentary action, claims about 100 supporters in the Commons, some of them Labour MPs. Friends of Bruges is a smaller grouping of 10-20 MPs. The 25-strong NTB is largely moribund, mainly because many of its highly ambitious young activists have found their way into government. But it showed its teeth a couple of weeks ago by acting as the focus for the leaked meeting of ministers opposed to the Maastricht treaty.

After a long period in the doldrums, the CERG appears to be recruiting again, presumably among some of the 24 "new boys" who signed the Commons motion calling for a "fresh start" after the Danish referendum. Nicholas Budge and Richard Shepherd are on its executive and it claims a membership of 85 Tory MPs.

The CGE, chaired by John Burt Foster, also claims a membership of around 100.

Police sift war crimes evidence

BY ROBERT MORGAN

POLICE are still sifting the evidence about alleged former Nazi war criminals living in Britain, but no prosecutions have yet been mounted a year after the War Crimes Act came into force.

In the Commons yesterday Sir Nicholas Lyell, the attorney-general, said dedicated teams from the Metropolitan Police and the Crown Prosecution Service were examining the evidence and the focus of their investigations had narrowed.

Cyril Townsend (Bedleyheath, C) called on the government to abandon its search. He said it was disgraceful that Britain should follow the example of the former Soviet Union and Israel in such vindictive war crime trials. The cases under investigation involved only three elderly people, former citizens of the Baltic states, and it was unlikely that any of them would be alive to be sentenced even if they were found guilty.

Sir Nicholas said any decision on prosecution would be taken in accordance with the same principles as applied to other prosecutions. Greville Janner, Labour MP for Leicester West, said prosecution for war crimes was not stupid, particularly not for those with personal involvement.

Smith demands interest rate cut to aid recovery

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith renewed his demand for an immediate cut in interest rates yesterday as Labour sought to exploit growing concern about the faltering pace of economic recovery.

The shadow chancellor, addressing the GMB union's annual conference in Blackpool, accused the government of "collective amnesia" about a jobless rate that was now 1 per cent above the European Community average and had been rising for 24 months.

Every person out of work cost the state £8,000 and last year the recession claimed a million jobs. The prime minister's election promises of an upturn on the back of a Tory victory had come to nothing, he said.

Mr Smith's comments came amid signs that Tory backbench anxieties over the Maastricht treaty and his plans for economic and monetary union are spilling over into criticism of the European exchange rate mechanism and calls for cheaper borrowing.

"But still the Conservatives refuse to act," Mr Smith said. "Despite the continuing high level of business failures, the continuing doldrums in the housing and construction industries, the continued weakness of high street spending, and the relentless rise in unemployment, the Conservatives still hold interest rates too high for too long. It is time now for a further reduction in interest rates — a reduction which I believe can be sustained within the European exchange rate mechanism. After all, what is the point of being in the wide 6 per cent band of the ERM if the extra latitude it offers is hardly ever used."

Mr Smith's remarks were delivered as the GMB prepared to announce today the outcome of its ballot on the Labour leadership contest in which the shadow chancellor is being challenged by Bryan Gould.

Mr Gould, the shadow environment secretary, is on the Euro-sceptic wing of the party and has argued that Labour's support for the ERM undermined its efforts to pin the blame for the recession on the government. He has called for an overhaul of the ERM to remedy its deflationary effects.

With the two big parties divided by argument over closer European integration, signs of impatience from the strongly pro-European Mr Smith with the workings of the ERM appear to signal a change of tack. His remarks leave him better placed to refute Mr Gould's thinly veiled criticism that the shadow chancellor is a tacit supporter of a failed government policy.

Mr Smith, who appears assured of victory in the leadership election on July 18, said that cutting the present "intolerable levels of unemployment" must be a "central objective" of economic policy in the 1990s. He said that Labour's £1.1 billion recovery package, detailed in the election campaign, was a "first step" in restoring full employment.



Wake-up call: John Smith, who accused the government of "collective amnesia" over jobs

Football clubs get free hand

David Mellor, the national heritage secretary, ruled out government intervention to prevent higher admission charges being imposed by football clubs in the new Premier League. Tom Pendry, chairman of the all-party football committee, said the charges would prevent many supporters from attending matches. Mr Mellor said it would be left to each club to set prices.

He also told MPs that he would not become involved in the arguments over contracts for live coverage of Premier League matches going to the BSkyB satellite channel.

Private income

Proceeds from privatisation amount to about £41.5 billion and a further £8 billion is expected to be raised this financial year, Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary to the Treasury, said in a written reply.

Road costs

Government spending on trunk road schemes in London, excluding land purchase, has risen from £30.4 million in 1982-3 to £123.3 million this financial year, according to Steve Norris, minister for London's transport.

Duty returns

Lord Strathclyde, an environment minister, rejected a call in the Lords to extend the suspension of stamp duty on home purchases below £250,000 beyond August 19.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Health; prime minister. Debate: Opposition motion on the water industry. Lords (2.30): Judicial Pensions and Retirement bill, second reading. Debate on intestacy.

Letters, page 15

Major highlights successes of Earth summit

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE prime minister conceded yesterday that the Earth summit had failed to meet some of its objectives but insisted that Britain had played a leading role in creating a benchmark for future environmental action.

John Major told MPs: "The results have not gone as far as some would wish. As in any initiative there have had to be compromises," adding that the UK wanted to go further on climate changes than the convention allowed.

He said he was writing immediately to heads of government of the European Community and the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries to propose an

action plan to carry forward the agreements made at Rio de Janeiro. "We have already gone a long way towards achieving a cleaner, safer world in which all of us share responsibility for our environmental inheritance."

Mr Major pointed to the "key role" played by Michael Howard, the environment secretary, in persuading the United States to agree to the text on climate change.

In a Commons statement on the summit, Mr Major said that the undertakings Britain had made were substantial, although Britain would have to be content with the declaration, rather than a binding agreement.

on forests. The success of the summit was the fact that so many countries had met, something which would not have happened two years ago. "There is a firm commitment by all participants to further action. The countries of the world took on a substantial commitment to safeguard the environment on a global basis. In that respect Rio was a milestone. Britain played a leading role in securing those agreements. A lot of work remains."

Mr Major was accused of self-congratulation by Roy Hattersley, the deputy Labour leader, who called on the prime minister to use Britain's special relationship

with the United States to make it join the bio-diversity agreement.

Mr Hattersley criticised the government for allowing the proportion of gross national product spent on overseas aid to decline to "an abysmally low level", little over half that spent in 1979. Then it had been 0.5 per cent and rising, whereas the recent increase to 0.31 per cent had been from a low of 0.27 per cent of GNP.

Mr Major said Britain had played a leading role in launching three specific initiatives reflecting "our position as a world leader in conservation and the use of the world's resources of

biodiversity and natural habitat". He said the agreement on Rio's Agenda 21 showed "a very strong commitment" to "a very far-reaching and worthwhile agenda".

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that although Mr Major had been one of the first G7 leaders to commit himself to the summit, he had been able to achieve too little. The amounts pledged were only one-twentieth of what the UN deemed necessary.

Mr Major accepted that the summit was simply a step forward but could be built on in the future.

SDAY JUNE 16 1992

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The same river is dry, below



The same river is dry, below

NEWS IN BRIEF

Short win boosts England

England improved their position in the world Championship in the final of the first round in which they won a dramatic sixth round game against Poland of Hungary (Ravenscroft, Kinnock). That day, England won a dramatic victory in the final of the first round in which they won a dramatic sixth round game against Poland of Hungary (Ravenscroft, Kinnock).

Tebbit surgery

Mr Tebbit will undergo a major operation on his back, which will keep him out of the Commons for several weeks. The operation is expected to be successful, but the recovery period will be long.

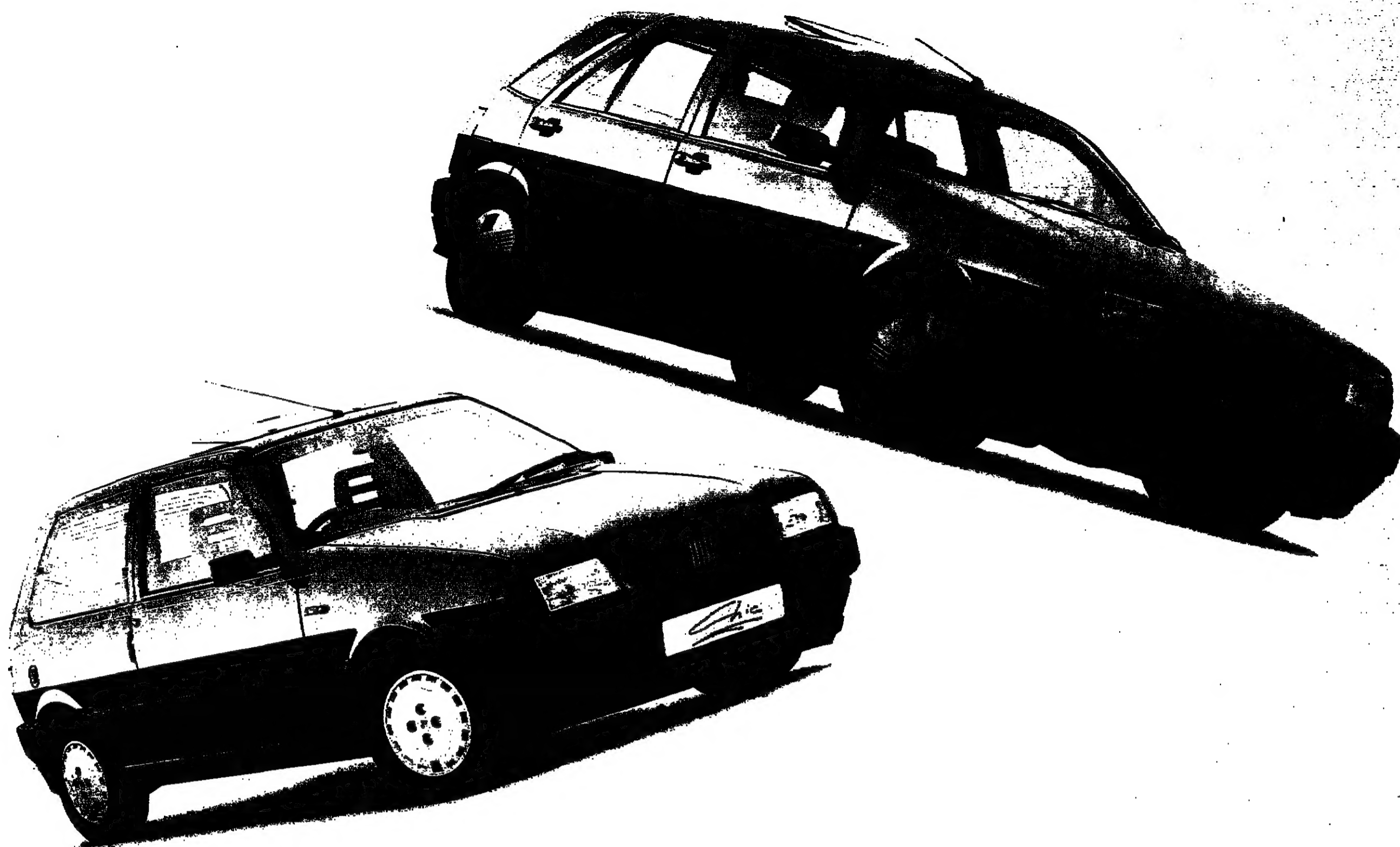
Schools rise

As the summer holidays begin, many schools are reporting a rise in the number of children who have been absent from school. This is attributed to a combination of factors, including the weather and the start of the holiday season.

Wind farm ban

A new planning policy has been introduced to restrict the siting of wind farms. The policy aims to protect the natural beauty of the countryside and to ensure that wind farms are sited in areas where they will have the least impact on the environment.

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Japan MPs approve bill letting troops go overseas

FROM EUGENE MOOSA IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S parliament ended a historic 20-month battle yesterday and approved a bill allowing the dispatch of soldiers overseas for the first time since the war.

Approval was given in a 329-17 vote in the 512-seat lower house. The measure allows, under strict conditions, the posting of up to 2,000 Japanese troops to UN peace-keeping missions in trouble spots such as Cambodia. It had been opposed strenuously by the opposition Socialists, who boycotted the last vote after offering to resign en masse in a desperate attempt to postpone enactment.

South Africa talks end in disarray

FROM KAT KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

CONSTITUTIONAL negotiations on South Africa's future broke down amid petty bickering yesterday, eyeing the "peace" talks. The African National Congress (ANC) and the government are at loggerheads over the future of the government. With the ANC planning to hold 70 rallies to mark the anniversary of the 1976-77 student uprising, the two sides seem on a collision course.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, will address a big rally in Soweto and will outline a strategy of civil disobedience and boycotts that is to continue until June 30, the deadline the ANC has set for the government to meet its demands for swift installation of an interim government. If they are not met, the ANC will begin more action, with a general strike in August.

Black man's bluff, page 14

Israelis hint at strike on Iran

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

FOR the second week in succession, a senior Israeli military commander has said that Israel is contemplating pre-emptive action against Iran because of increasing concern that Tehran is making rapid strides in acquiring nuclear weapons.

The latest threat was made by Major General Herzl Budinger, Israel's new air force chief, who estimated that Iran could become a nuclear power by the end of the century unless its atomic research programme was stopped, either through diplomacy or arms. "Israel has to create the biggest disruption also by military means in order to prevent the entry of nuclear weapons into our area," he said. "The air force has the ability to reach every country in the region in which there are nuclear weapons."

Major General Uri Saguy, the chief of military intelligence, recently singled out Iran's nuclear project as one of the greatest threats to Israel. He suggested that Israel also had a stake to settle with Tehran for its alleged involvement in the car bomb attack this year against the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires.

The warnings could, normally be put down to the propaganda war being fought by Israel and its radical opponents in the region. However, the fact that the latest threats were made days before Israel's general election makes them more worrying. Israeli opposition leaders are concerned that the right-wing government of Yitzhak Shamir might be contemplating a military operation to boost its flagging popularity and prove its commitment to the country's security.

Tensions between Israel and Iran have recently been exacerbated by clashes between Israeli forces in southern Lebanon and the Shia Muslim fundamentalists of Hezbollah, who are financed and trained by Iran.



Peace flight: one of several doves set free by Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, during a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee alights on his head before flying on. Mr Gorbachev and his wife are on a five-day visit to Israel

UK welcomes help on IRA given by embattled Gaddafi

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN SIRTE

BRITAIN yesterday welcomed as a "positive step forward" Libya's provision of information about its links with the IRA, and said that a preliminary assessment showed that the information contained "positive elements which might prove helpful".

The Foreign Office said that the information, handed over at a recent meeting in Geneva, was in places incomplete and unsatisfactory, but it showed that the Libyans could take positive steps when they put their minds to it. Britain was still at an early stage in assessing the information on the IRA. Libya has been a main source of arms for the IRA, and in 1987 French customs seized an Irish-crewed freighter loaded with Libyan arms.

The government pointed out that Libya had still not complied with the United Nations Security Council resolution 731 in full, which included handing over for trial in America or Scotland the two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing of the Pan Am jet, and providing a satisfactory response to the demands made by France over the destruction of a French aircraft over Niger.

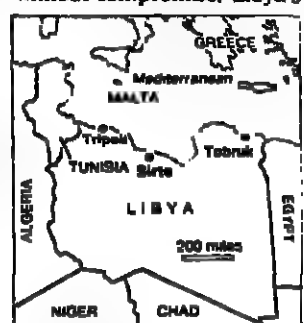
In Libya, the General People's Congress was moving last night towards a decision on how to respond to the demand for the handing over of the Lockerbie suspects amid heated exchanges between different factions in the regime. After being subjected to unprecedented attacks in the official media, Abd al-Raziq Sawwa, the presiding secretary, denied that his hardline opening address, in which he ruled out extradition and advocated Arab unity, represented the policy of the congress, the pinnacle of the decision-making process.

His remarks came as senior figures in the 23-year-old revolutionary regime argued privately over the merit of making a new gesture to the UN in an attempt to ward off any tightening of sanctions

when they are reviewed by the security council in August.

The congress is being held in the remote coastal town of Sirte, which is near Muammar Gaddafi's birthplace but far from the two main population centres of Tripoli and Benghazi. Proceedings on most subjects are televised, but discussions on foreign policy were taking place at a different venue behind closed doors.

Mr Sawwa's defensive remarks kept alive Western hopes that Colonel Gaddafi may yet use the annual congress as a vehicle for trying to end the deadlock over the two Libyan security agents. The more technocratic members of his regime realise that, without compromise, Libya's

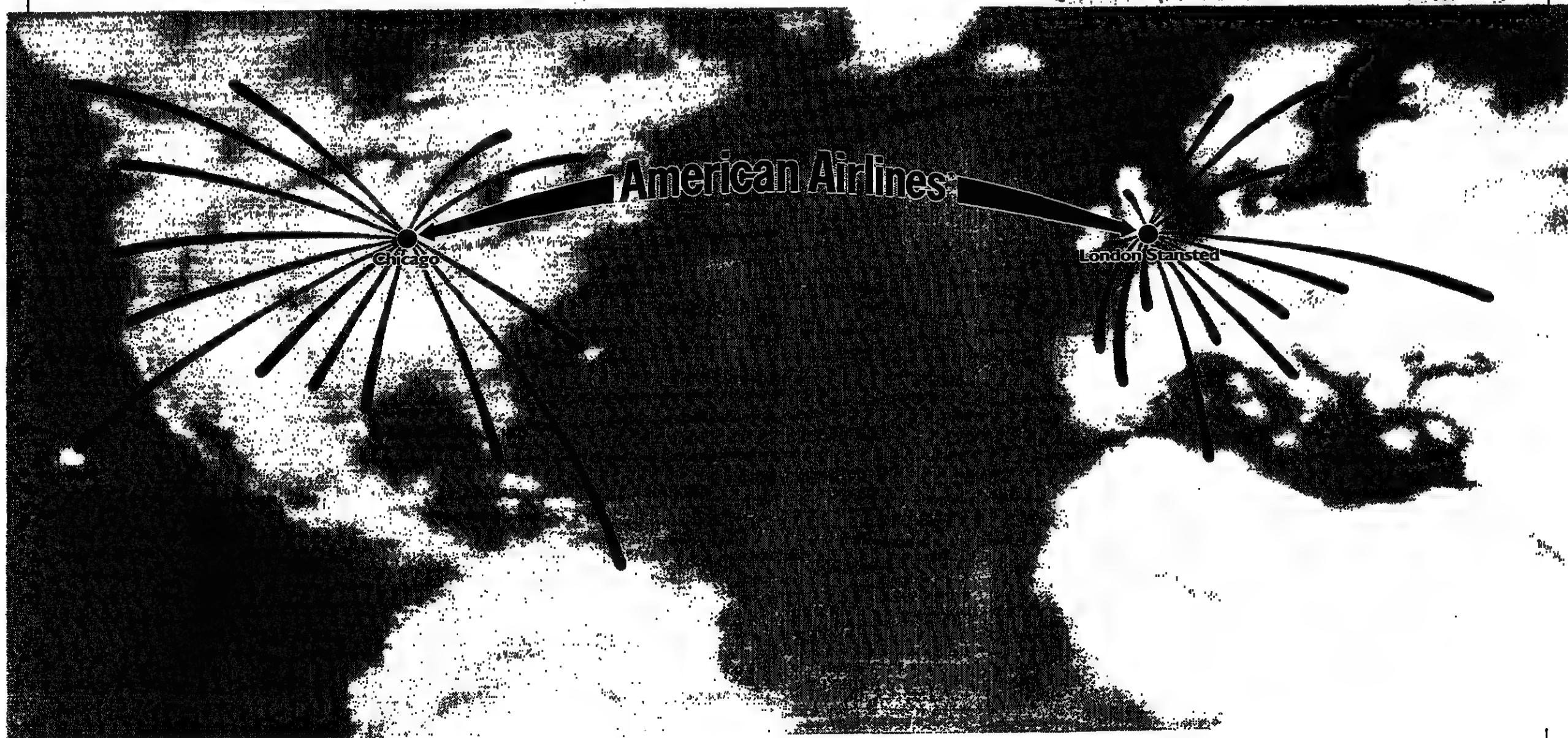


grate further.

The Sirte decision, expected within the next 48 hours, could have sweeping consequences for Colonel Gaddafi's leadership. "His survival has become entwined with the Lockerbie crisis," a European diplomat said. "He is now fighting to stay in power and seems prepared to ditch past ideology to ensure his survival."

Diplomatic sources said that the main opposition to any softening of Libya's stand came from those within the large security network who are frightened that a trial in the West could lead to their own involvement and a collapse of their privileged position.

The Foreign Office said last night that Britain was looking to Libya to comply fully with the UN resolution.



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EC ministers attack Delors largesse to poor regions

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN LUXEMBOURG

RICHIER EC governments pressed home their attack on ambitious plans to spend large sums on the Community's four poorest states, raising fears inside the Irish government that its promises of future EC "megabucks" may not materialise.

After EC finance ministers savaged the budget plans of Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, last week, the Community's foreign ministers found yesterday that M Delors had modified his ideas. He suggested that his plans for a 30 per cent increase in EC spending over five years should be stretched over seven years. But Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, rammed home British criticisms of plans for huge increases in regional funds and the proposed size of a special new fund for Portugal, Greece, Spain and Ireland.

In spite of the Irish government's evident nervousness over the result of Thursday's ratification referendum in the republic, British, French and German ministers all agreed that EC spending could not increase further than strained domestic budgets. David Andrews, the Irish foreign minister, was heard asking Mr Hurd for help over the budget before the meeting began, but received little assistance during the meeting itself. Mr Hurd said that the "cohesion fund" for poor states could be set up without increasing overall EC spending, but should not be as large as M Delors has recommended.

The Irish government has claimed that the budget proposal is likely to be

passed as framed by M Delors. Ireland's £3 billion in the present five-year budget would double to £6 billion by 1997. Although any final settlement will boost spending on states like Ireland, the "megabucks" will fall short of Dublin's original promises.

Mr Hurd refused yesterday to comment on M Delors's prospects of reappointment to a further two years at the head of the Commission, in spite of the clamour against M Delors in Britain. The government's last formal opportunity to interfere with M Delors's progress to a third term comes on Thursday when Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese prime minister, who will chair the Lisbon summit next week, makes his pre-summit visit to London.

The clamour for another candidate to run against M Delors appears to encourage other governments to close ranks behind him, since there is no sign of a rival. Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, said over the weekend that he wanted to see M Delors reappointed. M Delors has thus collected endorsements from both Holland and Denmark, the only two states other than Britain which might have been tempted to try to get rid of the French president of the Commission.

Mr Hurd also appealed to his colleagues to make special efforts to save Gatt, the world trade talks, during the next few weeks.

Major attack, page 1
Leading article, page 15
L&T section, page 1



Cash plea: David Andrews, Ireland's foreign minister, left, received little comfort when he turned to Douglas Hurd, his British colleague, for support over Ireland's hopes of extra EC cash



Euro-express 'must stay on track'

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

NEITHER annoyance with the Brussels bureaucracy nor the Danish referendum can be allowed to "stop the train" towards Europe, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, said yesterday.

Failure to move ahead would delay European integration by 25 years and history would not forgive those responsible, the chancellor said at a Christian Democrat conference designed to rally the dispirited party faithful.

With public opinion swinging against European union and, above all, the idea of abandoning the mark for a

European currency, Herr Kohl spoke passionately about the need to press on. "It is quite clear that we will have failed history if we are satisfied with German unity but give up on European unity in this decade."

Many in Europe found it hard to tolerate 80 million Germans because of the past, he said; yet on all sides, including in Germany, the "old sounds" of nationalism and chauvinism could be heard. "No country in Europe is free from this virus," he said. "Therefore we will do everything at the Lisbon

summit to ensure that the train towards Europe is not held up and the vote in Denmark does not stop it. We will do all we can to give Denmark the opportunity to get back on board, but we will accelerate towards further enlargement."

"If we do not succeed in making the breakthrough, then we will have failed history," the chancellor said that there was no question of surrendering the mark until it was certain that the common European currency that would replace it was at least as stable. Such policies

would help to create a political union in which national traditions were respected but in which the structure would ensure peace and freedom.

Klaus Kinkel, the foreign minister, sounded less idealistic in a radio interview. "It is still not the case that Europe is firmly anchored among the population, and they do not think everything that comes out of Europe is good and brings benefits," he said. The government, he added, had failed to put the European idea across to the public, perhaps because it was too complicated.

Hurd puts foot in animal rights trap

George Brock believes that Douglas Hurd may find himself entangled in the ambiguities of Maastricht

IF THERE was one issue that yesterday encapsulated the muddle in the European Community over the Maastricht treaty and the proper balance of power between Brussels and national governments, it was not the budget so much as the hunting of turtle-doves.

In the Gironde region of southwest France, turtle-doves have been hunted for centuries, recently in furious defiance of EC directives. Hunters with shotguns have blocked roads in protest.

Douglas Hurd, in his desperate search for ways of making Maastricht more appealing, sees the turtle-dove question as ideally suited for a touch of "subsidiarity", or devolution of powers; bird law belongs to national governments.

But, along with a vague clause on subsidiarity, the Maastricht treaty also contains one on protecting animals against cruelty. The words were inserted by Tristram Garel-Jones, one of Mr Hurd's junior ministers, at the behest of the ferocious British animal rights lobby. Britain's position is consequently split-minded.

The Maastricht treaty contains little consensus: its 300 pages are a compromise between 12 states whose interests and agendas are diverging under the new strains of an internationalised economy and the break-up of the rigid certainties of the Cold War. Mr Hurd is on dangerous ground claiming the treaty as a victory for decentralisation; equally, his opponents cannot claim it as a federalist triumph.

This ambiguity is both Mr Hurd's joy and his undoing. When the Danes voted not to ratify the treaty, he was at the peak of his influence in his own department and party. He believes, and

all his colleagues seem to accept, that he is the only navigator skilled enough to sail Britain safely through the rapids which may yet smash Maastricht.

Mr Hurd usually relishes the risk. But now his own party is so rebellious and his tactics in Brussels so complicated, that self-confident captaincy is becoming nearly impossible. If the treaty survives the Irish referendum on Thursday, its fate turns on the French referendum in the autumn. If the treaty fails that test, not only will the legal document be

AGENDA THIS WEEK

□ Tuesday: second and final day of EC foreign ministers' meeting in Luxembourg.

□ Thursday: Irish referendum on Maastricht.

□ Friday: foreign and defence ministers of the Western European Union meet in Bonn to debate EC security policy and the Franco-German corps; and Jacques Delors in Paris for talks with President Mitterrand on the forthcoming French referendum on Maastricht.

dead but many of its ideas will never be heard of again.

Mr Hurd has just spent four days in France with the Queen, and is apparently uncertain of what may happen. "I don't know how it will go," said one senior Foreign Office man yesterday. "It's very complex and probably crucial. The French are not accustomed to a running debate on these issues."

British ministers will sooner or later have to broach the idea of going beyond interpreting the treaty to actually altering the text. The closest one senior minister would go yesterday was to admit that there may yet be "leeway" to revise Maastricht.

Serbian artillery and snipers break Bosnian ceasefire

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SERBIAN artillery shelled part of Sarajevo and snipers fired on civilians yesterday, putting a ceasefire in Bosnia's ethnic war under threat, local journalists said.

"We cannot say the ceasefire is being respected," Zoran Pirolic, a Sarajevo radio editor, said by telephone ten hours after the United Nations-mediated truce between Serb and Muslim-Croat militia forces came into force. Sarajevo radio said that gunners in the main Serb garrison at Lukavica, outside Sarajevo, had shelled the city's Dobrinja district, where 40,000 people have been trapped for weeks. Snipers were also active near Sarajevo's Jewish cemetery, which is held by Serb militiamen. Two civilians were shot dead, Mr Pirolic said.

A Reuters photographer said by telephone from Sarajevo that explosions, generally intermittent and light, could be heard all over the city, but it was unclear who was responsible for the firing.

Mr Pirolic said Muslim and Croat territorial forces, defending the city against besieging Serbs, appeared to have fired shells into the contested district of Hrasno. "It is periodic, light shooting and shelling, not a major breach of the ceasefire. It still appears to be indiscipline, but it is happening more and more often now, and that is cause for worry," he said.

The rival militia forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina's vicious ethnic war silenced their guns at 6am yesterday to allow an emergency airlift to 300,000 Sarajevo civilians deprived of food and medicine. The UN peacekeeping forces had hoped to take over Sarajevo airport from Serb militias to enable humanitarian flights to supply the city, if the UN Security Council decided the ceasefire was durable.

In Belgrade, the student protest demonstrations continued. Four students in their early twenties stood well back from the demonstrators who had come to Students' Square in the centre of the city to demand, yet again, the resignation of Slobodan Milosevic, Serbia's president. Some student leaders urged the crowd, estimated at about

15,000, to support a general strike of the university as well as the occupation of three faculty buildings. That failed to sway Radovan, an engineering student, who described the rally as "a complete waste of time". Radovan said he would leave Serbia in a few weeks' time for Australia. He was going for good. "I really have no future here," he said as the now familiar student chants of "Go away, Sloba" rose behind him.

"The opposition has no strong, single voice here and the students are divided," he said. "You have the students from the provinces, whose parents are pro-Milosevic and for the war, and the liberals in Belgrade, who are better but basically powerless. Milosevic knows that, and knows the power of fear — he has the police and the army to do the talking for him. That is why there are more police here today than unemployed workers."

The four young men, two of them former soldiers, nodded in unison when it was suggested that Serbia's nationalist communist leaders were too short-sighted to see that Serbia's brightest people were moving abroad.

Police chiefs' trial will open up secrets of martial-law Poland

The enforced amnesia in Poland about the crimes of the communist regime is likely to come to an abrupt end soon, Roger Boyes writes from Warsaw

TWO Polish secret police generals went on trial yesterday, charged with ordering the murder of Jerzy Popieluszko, the Solidarity priest. Secrets are likely to be disclosed as the officers attempt to deflect the blame on to the former communist party leadership of General Wojciech Jaruzelski or on to hardline Marxists.

The case is important, not only because it should at last shed light on the 1984 killing and the web of communist and police power, but also because it will end a period of enforced amnesia in Poland. Despite the witch-hunting rhetoric, little has been done by the Solidarity administration to reconstruct the crimes committed and concealed in the years after martial law was declared in 1981.

Three years after the Solidarity revolution, the Senate is still divided over how to prosecute crimes committed under the communists. Television footage from the martial law period was wiped out recently by archivists. The new post-Solidarity generation of Poles knows General Jaruzelski and General Czeslaw Kiszczak, his interior minister, mainly as the authors of two woodenly written best-sellers, rather than as architects of the martial law internment camps.

The generals on trial plainly were aware of the priest's

murder. General Wladyslaw Cielon was deputy interior minister and chief of the secret police. General Zenon Platek was director of the fourth department of the secret police, which was in charge of monitoring and harassing the Roman Catholic Church. After the hearing opened, lawyers acting for Father Popieluszko's family requested a brief postponement. That should allow the prosecutor to strengthen his case further.

Father Popieluszko's killing sent shock-waves through Poland and Central Europe. He had been an outspoken Solidarity sympathiser and was kidnapped by three secret police agents — Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski, Lieutenant Waldemar Chmielewski and Lieutenant Leszek Pekala. They beat him, gagged him, and put him in the boot of their car. Finally, they threw the half-suffocated and bleeding man into a reservoir and drowned him.

Given the hierarchy and bureaucracy of the secret police, it was inconceivable that the agents could have been acting without orders.



Popieluszko: beaten, gagged and drowned

Yet at a televised trial in February 1985 the buck stopped with their immediate superior, Colonel Adam Pietruszka. The colonel, whose initial 25-year jail term has been reduced to 15 years, says now that he was ordered by General Kiszczak to take all the blame and make sure that nobody more senior was implicated. In return, General Kiszczak would arrange that he was freed quickly and quietly. But communist rule col-

lapsed, all promises were cancelled, and Colonel Pietruszka was stranded in jail with nothing to lose by naming names.

Captain Piotrowski, the only other member of the gang still in jail, also tried to strike a deal. He, Colonel Pietruszka and the two other murderers — Lieutenant Pekala and Lieutenant Chmielewski, both now free — will be at the trial.

There were four theories about the murder. The least plausible, that the men were acting alone out of resentment towards the priest, was the version accepted by the judges, who were guided by the communist leadership. Another theory, that the murder was planned by the KGB, seems improbable, because the operation would never have been bungled at so many crucial stages. The two most probable explanations are either that the killing was the work of a hardline faction determined to unseat General Jaruzelski, or that the killing was authorised from the top of the interior ministry.

If the trial points to the latter, that will spell the end of a period of leniency towards the Jaruzelski leadership. There have been no show trials and no public reckoning with any of the communist leaders, partly because the same men surrendered power peacefully.

Havel calls for speedy solution

FROM REUTERS IN PRAGUE

PRESIDENT Havel wants a quick resolution of the deadlock that is blocking talks on Czechoslovakia's future as the risk of economic damage grows, his spokesman said yesterday.

Mr Havel was due to meet Vladimir Meciar, the Slovak leader, last night before Mr Meciar's delayed third round of talks on Czechoslovakia's future with Vaclav Klaus, the prime minister-designate, planned for tomorrow. Mr Klaus and Mr Meciar have failed to agree on any basic issues since the elections 11 days ago highlighted deep divisions in the country, threatening a split into two independent republics.

"If an agreement is not possible, the president would agree with Mr Klaus that matters should still proceed quickly," Michael Zantovsky, Mr Havel's spokesman, told reporters. Mr Zantovsky pointed to reports of a 10 per cent fall in Czechoslovak government bonds last Friday, after the second round of talks ended in hostility and mutual recriminations.

The state bank denied the reports, saying that the situation was stable. "But potential investors are asking us what is going on," Martin Svehla, for the bank, said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

US judges approve kidnaps

Washington: In a decision that will provoke international protest, the US Supreme Court ruled yesterday that the American government is entitled to kidnap criminal suspects from other countries and prosecute them regardless of the wishes of the nations they have been snatched from (Jamie Detmer writes).

The justices accepted the Bush administration's plea that it had committed no wrong in kidnapping a Mexican doctor who allegedly helped to keep alive a US federal agent in 1985 while drug traffickers tortured him for information before killing him. The Mexican government had protested at the kidnapping Dr Humberto Alvarez-Marchain.

Nairobi: Sir Anthony Sturgis, the Commonwealth deputy secretary-general for political affairs, has arrived in Kenya at the head of a four-man team to help to plan the country's first multi-party elections in 26 years. (Reuters)

Refugees held

Dhaka: Bangladesh police arrested 120 Burmese refugees for protesting against their planned repatriation. Nearly 275,000 Muslim refugees, known as Rohingyas, are being returned home to Burma. (Reuters)

Boys killed

Tampa, Florida: Daniel Perez and Anthony Storman, both nine, were killed when they apparently inhaled toluene, a chemical widely used in industry, that had been dumped in a rubbish bin with which they were playing. (AP)

Rock fans riot

Belmar, New Jersey: Thousands of rampaging rock fans smashed windows and fought with police officers after a seaside concert here. At least 38 people were injured and 25 were arrested, the police said. (Reuters)

Passengers die

Lisbon: Four people died and 30 were injured when a tourist coach crashed near Castro Daire. The coach, carrying 54 Portuguese passengers, fell 65ft into a ravine after its brakes apparently failed, police said. (AFP)

Red elite's retreat leaves Baltic resorts in the doldrums

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN JURMALA, LATVIA

ALONG the eastern Baltic coast the pines and sand dunes shelter a string of once elegant resorts to which the elite used to repair in the summer. The German and Baltic counts, with their rigorous attitude to taking the air and sea-bathing, were followed by the Soviet Union's more secretive communist aristocracy.

Members of the hierarchy would sweep to their retreats in convoys of black limousines. The proletarian select vanished towards their sanatoriums in lines of Hungarian buses, re-emerging in bright, tacky beach clothes, always in noisy groups, always out of place.



This year, from Svetlogorsk in the west to Parnu in the east, the former Soviet resorts are strangely quiet, despite a summer which has been exceptionally warm and dry. Even at weekends, the pedestrian-only streets are empty. The shops and cafes have no custom.

What has happened here is a side-effect of the Soviet

Union's collapse. The system that fed the resorts is no more, and they have hardly understood yet the need for change. At Jurmala, a dozen or so miles from the Latvian capital, Riga, a resort favoured by the Brezhnev clan and latterly by Soviet pop stars, are upon acres of forested housing stands empty.

Independent Latvia has decreed that original owners or their descendants may reclaim family property confiscated by the communists.

The former owners of the detached wooden mansions — the aristocrats, the merchants, the old middle classes — are expected back. In the meantime, no one else may buy or sell. Some former owners, however, will find huge clearings where their

houses used to be, where the communists built their own grand and clumsy palaces.

At Jurmala, the fancies of Soviet architects roamed free. There is a red-brick development of wigwams. There are shallow pyramids, largely in glass, with leaking windows. There is a grey concrete pleasure dome, with square red-brick annexes added. Now the high fences have come down, and this folly is exposed to the scorn of passers-by.

Even those buildings that have not suffered from the political changes have fallen on hard times. Four weeks at a sanatorium at one of these resorts now costs between 6,000 and 10,000 roubles (£55 at the market rate) — more than double the aver-

age monthly wage. The cost of an air or rail ticket has risen sharply since last autumn. For adventurers prepared to travel by car, petrol supplies are uncertain.

Anyway, for most of their former visitors, most Baltic resorts are now "abroad". Russians will soon need visas and hard currency to get there. Customs restrictions will prevent them from taking their usual gifts home.

Only Kaliningrad is still Russian, but it is far away and its usual stream of holidaymakers from the non-Russian republics has dried up. The trade union organisations cannot afford to subsidise workers' holidays as they used to. The very rich, moreover, can now travel to the real "abroad".

Kaliningrad council would like the high-rise sanatorium blocks by the sea, funded by enterprises and trade unions, to become hotels attracting the many Germans who must wait for a hotel room in town. But few West Europeans would take kindly to four-bed rooms and a communal shower at the end of the corridor.

Yesterday Tass said that an officer had been killed in an explosion at an ammunition depot for the Baltic fleet in Kaliningrad. Officials said the accident was caused during a routine inspection of shells, but a local paper claimed that sailors had been taking apart shells to sell the cartridges, which contain non-ferrous metals, and had been smoking.

America and Russia fail to tie up deal on nuclear arms cuts



Kozyrev: pact far from signed and sealed

JAMES Baker, the US secretary of state, said yesterday that he and Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, had still not nailed down agreement on deep new cuts in each side's strategic nuclear arsenals. Presidents Bush and Yeltsin want to announce the cuts at the first official summit beginning in Washington today.

Mr Baker denied the agreement was all but signed and sealed. There were still four or five outstanding problems, at least two of which were "extraordinarily difficult", he said at a press conference a few hours before Mr Yeltsin's arrival. "There's no such agreement yet."

Mr Baker met Mr Kozyrev in London on Friday and the two men made progress. They spoke by telephone on Sunday night, and were due to hold another meeting last night after Mr Kozyrev arrived with the Yeltsin party.

Martin Fletcher and Michael Binyon report that the US is seeking to take advantage of Russia's present weakness in negotiating nuclear cuts

Independent arms experts said Mr Bush and Mr Yeltsin were almost certain to announce an accord, but the real test was whether they merely announced a general commitment to making deep reductions as speedily as possible or committed themselves to specific numbers.

Both sides have long agreed on the need for cuts that go well beyond those laid out in last year's Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start), but have disagreed on where and how fast cuts should fall. The US has been seeking maximum advantage given Russia's present weakness but knows Mr Yeltsin would face a backlash from

his own military if he concedes too much.

The American aim has been to eliminate all Russia's land-based, multiple-warhead SS-18 and SS-24 "MIRV" missiles, the largest, most modern and most destabilising component of the Russian nuclear arsenal. The US proposed an overall ceiling of 4,700 nuclear warheads for each side. In return for Russian compliance, it would eliminate all its land-based multiple-warhead missiles and cut its sea-launched missile force by a third.

Russian negotiators said America was asking them to discard the backbone of Russia's deterrent while Ameri-

can superiority in submarine-launched missiles would remain intact. Moreover, they would actually have to deploy expensive new missile systems of other sorts to reach the 4,700 ceiling.

Land-based missile systems account for about 60 per cent of Russia's approximately 10,000 warheads. By comparison, under the US proposals, America would have to abandon only 50 MX missiles carrying 500 warheads and "download" 500 Minuteman missiles from three warheads each to one. The US would reduce its submarine-launched missiles from the 3,456 agreed under Start to about 2,300.

Independent arms experts yesterday predicted that the US would agree to a ceiling lower than 4,700 and settle for a drastic reduction in Russian MIRVs that nevertheless fell short of their complete elimination. "Clearly it will be

STRATEGIC FORCES						
	1992 Warheads	Under START Weapons	Warheads	1992 (CIS) Warheads	Under Start (Russia) Weapons	Warheads
ICBMs	American 2370	50 MX 300 MM III 200 MM III	500 300 200	Russian 6115	154 SS-16s 693 SS-25s 92 SS-24s	1540 693 920
SLBMs	3840	92 C-4s 240 C-5s	1536 1920	2696	130 SS-N-20s 192 SS-N-18s 112 SS-N-23s	720 678 448
Bombers	3776	95 B-1Bs 93 B-52Hs	1520 1860	1429	85 Bear-Hs 16 Blackbirds	1540 192
Totals	9886		8556	10237		6449

Source: The Arms Control Association

less than a third and on the way to zero," said Jack Mendelsohn, deputy director of Washington's Arms Control Association. He said the administration could settle for the elimination of Russia's SS18s but not the SS24s. SS18s have twice the "throw-weight" of the next largest missile in both countries' arsenals and were "the mother of missile threats", he said.

Russian sources said that Moscow had been willing to propose at the recent five-nations arms talks in Lisbon the complete elimination of all MIRV vehicles. However, the Americans were unwilling to accept this, and Russia did not even begin talks with its three other nuclear partners in the Commonwealth of Independent States - Ukraine, Belarusia and Kazakhstan. The Russians said the Start treaty laid down in exhaustive

detail procedures for verification and elimination of weapons, so the present follow-on talks concerned only the figures for balanced arms reductions rather than the mechanisms for cuts.

The sources said Moscow was seeking a generally more co-operative relationship with Washington but still opposed American policy on the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and continued SDI development.

Yeltsin woos West on eve of summit

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

PRESIDENT Yeltsin began an eleventh-hour wooing of the West yesterday by signing several long-awaited economic decrees and promoting Yegor Gaidar, the architect of Russia's reform programme, from deputy to acting prime minister. The measures were announced just before Mr Yeltsin left for his first summit in Washington.

The promotion of Mr Gaidar, who is accompanying the Russian president to America, may be meant to boost his negotiating authority in Washington and create the impression that radical reforms continue apace. But it could also be the outcome of a brief struggle for ascendancy in the upper echelons of the Russian government.

The pecking order has been unclear since the promotion two weeks ago of Vladimir Shumeiko, formerly deputy chairman of the Russian parliament. Mr Shumeiko was

appointed a first deputy prime minister in charge of industry, apparently leaving Mr Gaidar with little more than policy-making responsibilities.

On a live phone-in programme yesterday evening, Mr Shumeiko, in his first television appearance in his new capacity, answered questions with measured and precise replies. He promised lower taxes, rouble convertibility from July, as planned, and levies on monopoly producers to prevent them keeping prices unjustifiably high. His performance seemed intended to dispel any doubts on the reshuffled government's continued commitment to reform.

Mr Yeltsin needs to project his most radical and reformist image in Washington if Russia is to have any chance of receiving the Western financial assistance conditionally promised. At Moscow airport, he said: "Gaidar heads the government, which means that he remains in the vanguard of the reforms and that the reforms will continue to advance."

While the Russian president has professed support for Mr Gaidar since recent changes in the government, an element of uncertainty still surrounded yesterday's announcement. As late as last Wednesday, Mr Yeltsin was insisting that he would continue to head the government for at least another few months until it was strong enough to stand by itself.

The decrees signed by Mr Yeltsin yesterday include the long-awaited procedure that will allow state enterprises to be declared bankrupt. The decree says that state enterprises must pay outstanding debts within three months or be sold to private owners.

Of the other decrees announced yesterday, one modifies an existing and much-evaded provision on foreign exchange earnings, enabling enterprises to remit hard currency to the state at a market exchange rate, rather than a current, artificially low rate. Another introduces temporary import duties on electronic goods, cars, wine and spirits. A third decree provides for the introduction of export duties on as yet undefined "strategic goods".

IMF hopes to speed Russia loan

FROM REUTERS IN WASHINGTON

MICHAEL Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said yesterday he thought a loan agreement with Russia could be achieved soon, but conceded that delays were possible.

Speaking to the Bretton Woods Committee, he said that it was important that Russia should not slow its reform process since that would make it difficult to attract outside assistance. He made clear that "slower adjustment" always costs more to finance and said it was uncertain where such extra financing might come from. It was important that Congress should approve the US share of a quota increase.

Lewis Preston, the World Bank president, said that the first priority was to "help halt, and then reverse, the precipitous economic decline" in Russia. The lending programme for the former Soviet Union states could total £1.38 billion (£745 million) over the next 12 months.



The winners: fans of the Chicago Bulls standing on overturned cars amid the wreckage of Sunday night's post-match rioting in Chicago to proclaim their joy at their team's spectacular fourth-quarter comeback to win the National Basketball Association championship. They beat the Portland Trail Blazers 97-93

Moscow restores Cossacks as border defence force

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday signed a decree reviving the rights of the Cossacks, traditional defenders of the Russian Empire's fringes, as fighting in Transcaucasia between Armenians and Azerbaijanis raged on and Azerbaijan gained ground.

At the same time, the chairman of the Russian parliament, Russian Khasbulatov, threatened formally to annex the mountain war zone of South Ossetia, a move that would virtually amount to a declaration of war with Georgia, where the region lies.

Mr Yeltsin's decree goes some way towards meeting the demands of a Cossack movement that is re-emerging as a cultural, economic and paramilitary force after being forced underground when the Bolsheviks consolidated their power. It recognises the Cossacks' right to practise traditional forms of local government and communal land ownership in areas where they predominate. However, it rules out "social privileges" for Cossacks and the imposition of their way of life on others.

Mr Yeltsin's decree also instructs the defence ministry to draw up proposals for deploying the Cossacks in the armed

forces, notably "for the protection of state borders and the maintenance of public peace" - their functions in Tsarist times. The withdrawal of much of the former Soviet garrison from both sides of the Caucasus mountains has strengthened the Cossacks' bargaining position as they present themselves as the only force who can defend Russian lives from a slide towards anarchy.

Cossacks have offered their services to the Ossetians, a traditionally pro-Russian people, in their conflict with Georgia and challenged the authority of Dzhokhar Dudayev, leader of the Chechen people, who have rebelled against Moscow.

In Transcaucasia, ethnic Armenian fighters and civilians had to abandon the Sharmyanovsk valley, where Azerbaijanis forces have been fighting to dislodge them for three years. The area is just outside the predominantly Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. The offensive, backed by 50 tanks and as many armoured cars, made a mockery of mediation efforts in Rome and marked a triumph for Azerbaijan's new nationalist leaders.

Vazgen Sarkisyan, the Ar-

menian defence minister, acknowledging a reversal in military fortunes after May's successes, told deputies in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, to prepare for retaliation. Although the disputed enclave in Azerbaijan has proclaimed its independence, Mr Sarkisyan acknowledged that forces from Armenia proper had taken part in the unsuccessful struggle to defend Sharmyanovsk.

The threat to annex South Ossetia was made by Mr Khasbulatov in response to what he described as "genocide and mass expulsion of Ossetians from their traditional homeland". Local leaders had asked to be allowed to transfer their region to Russia in January.

●Lithuanian vote: Lithuanians have voted to demand the immediate withdrawal of former Soviet troops from the republic. Preliminary results of Sunday's referendum indicated that more than 90 per cent of those who took part had voted yes to the statement: "I demand that the withdrawal of the former Soviet army from Lithuania start at once, finish in 1992, and that compensation be paid to the Lithuanian people and state for damages."

Solzhenitsyn asked to come home

President Boris Yeltsin has officially invited Russia's most famous living writer, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, to return home after 17 years of exile in Vermont.

The writer was exiled from the Soviet Union in 1974 after his book, *The Gulag Archipelago*, was published in the West.

Seven years after founding the dynamic SOS Racisme movement, the charismatic French anti-racism cam-

paigner, Harlem Desir, 32, is entering the political arena, founding a group called simply, The Movement, to contest next year's elections.

□

The temperamental Italian tenor Nazzio Todisco rounded on the audience when they booed him at the San Carlo theatre in Naples for failing to appear in the third act of Francesco Cilea's opera *Adriana Lecouvreur*. "How much did they pay you then, eh?" he shouted from the

spotlight, provoking a cacophony of shouts, whistles and obscene gestures.

□

The UN Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros Ghali, cancelled a planned video address by Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister of Japan, at the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro because there was no precedent for a television speech at a UN conference. "We have rules in this organization, and we must stick to them," he said.

Battling Dan delights the Republican right

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

Dan Quayle was derided four years ago as a disastrous choice for vice-president. He was seen as one of George Bush's worst mistakes. He was pummeled in the election campaign and was crushed during a television debate with his Democrat rival, the experienced Senator Lloyd Bentsen, who unleashed the withering "You are no Jack Kennedy" comment when his young opponent had the temerity to compare himself with the assassinated president.

Now, even some of Mr Quayle's most fervent critics are taking a fresh look and acknowledging at the very least that he has more belligerent spirit than his sleepwalking boss in the White House. From being seen widely as a goofy, no-hope, gaffe-ridden vice-president, more a hindrance than a help to President Bush, Mr Quayle has emerged right at

the centre of the administration's fight to survive.

In aggressive speeches on conservative themes, Mr Quayle has grabbed the spotlight and earned himself the praise of right-wing Republicans. His weekend assault on Ross Perot, the Texan billionaire who leads President Bush in opinion polls, was applauded by conservative commentators.

Wesley Pruden's column in the *Washington Times* was headlined "The 2-Man race: Quayle v Perot", a snub to President Bush, who has so far, and probably mistakenly, refused to grace the battlefield against the Texan. Mr Quayle has hardly been off the front pages in the past few weeks in his attempts to snatch the popular card from Mr Perot.

First, he condemned the heroine of the popular television sitcom, *Murphy Brown*, for having a baby out

of wedlock, claiming that it was the kind of Hollywood story-line that encouraged you are no Dan Quayle.

At a rally at the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis last week, he denounced sex education in primary schools, free condoms and homosexual parents. He received a standing ovation.

Mr Quayle believes that the Bush White House must try to keep together the coalition of voters that was put together initially by Richard Nixon and nurtured by Ronald Reagan. Known as the "Reagan Democrats", the bulk of that coalition defected to the Republicans because of the party's social message against permissiveness and drugs and they approved of its support for tough law-and-order measures. Now, as economic

worries replace social ones, the coalition is crumbling.

Mr Quayle's antidote has the increasingly confused White House split. There are those like Charles Black, the senior strategic adviser to the Bush campaign, who believes that in a three-way presidential race the only thing to do is to try to consolidate the party's conservative base.

Others worry that Mr Quayle's absolutism on issues such as abortion may alienate many more voters from the middle ground who still may be needed, if one of Mr Bush's two presidential rivals falls away in the autumn.

A shrewd offensive or not, Mr Quayle has done himself good with the conservative wing of the party, the constituency he will need if he decides to seek the presidential nomination in 1996.

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French-style laws on privacy are urgently needed in Britain

Today the Queen goes to Ascot for the start of the Royal Meeting. The cheers as she drives down the course followed by carriages carrying members of her family will be louder and longer than usual. The British, with their love of fair play, are quick to support and encourage those patently not getting it. Last Saturday Esther Rantzen of *That's Life* was seen asking passers-by for their views of the torrent of sensational accounts of the private lives of the Prince and Princess of Wales. All but one thought they should not have been published and that the manner of their presentation was disgraceful; the exception was a young man declaring himself a convinced republican.

Most are titillated by tumults in famous families such as the Reagans or entertainers. Books about them make large sums for the authors and large sales for newspapers serialising them. That the public is clearly interested does not mean people believe the hype for their dissemination in the public interest. In the case of the royal family, protestations that the public has the right to know because a supposed constitutional issue is involved are laughed at as hypocritical boloney.

Whatever the intent may be, bruited abroad what purport to be intimate details of the private life of the heir to the throne must harm the monarchy, even if some details are accurate. Two days ago *The Sunday Times* itself, while claiming not to be a republican newspaper (it fooled me), published the results of a Mori poll it had commissioned. The findings were of a recent sudden drop in public esteem for the monarchy.

If they were true, who is most responsible? *The Sunday Times* itself. It leads the pack with its attacks on the royals: running, for example, stories on the Queen's personal wealth that wildly exaggerate it. Its demand for the Queen to pay income tax omits to mention that if the Queen took back her Crown Estates she would have an income nearly ten times as great as the entire Civil List, and if she then paid tax she would have £40 million a year left, making her almost as rich as the Duke of Westminster.

In 1990 the Calcutt committee reported that the Press Complaints Commission was, for the newspaper industry, "one final chance to demonstrate it could put its own house in order" on matters of privacy. Manifestly it has failed: circulation battles always take precedence over promised good behaviour. Not only the Prince and Princess of Wales and the royal family need protection, but many besieged by reporters and photographers in their homes, and in hospitals, at tragic or traumatic moments of their lives.

The French are amazed at what is published about the private lives of the royal family, thinking that if there are difficulties in their marriage, placing them in a goldfish bowl will make it far harder for the difficulties to be overcome. French law enshrines "rights to one's personality". Family and personal matters are covered by a right of privacy: breaches are criminal. We need urgently a law similar to that of the French but which does not exclude bona fide investigations into wrongdoing. A book comparable to Andrew Morton's could not have appeared in France.

Meanwhile, opinion turns against promoters of such treatises, querying the one-sided nature of the alleged sources and their veracity (Mr Morton, challenged on Radio 4's *Today* yesterday morning offered a singularly feeble defence). The net effect of the present commotion is likely to be an upsurge of affection and respect for the superbly dignified and composed monarch.

Conor Cruise O'Brien detects power games behind ANC bluster that could win a South African settlement

Playing black man's bluff



Ramaphosa: taking a calculated risk?

then indeed the white economy would be so damaged that significant concessions might be extorted. But they do not have that capacity and nobody knows that better than Mr Ramaphosa, a leading officer of both movements. He and his colleagues know, from painful experience, that the most impressive-sounding of their present threats is a hollow one.

Last November, a strike organised jointly by the ANC and Cosatu is said to have brought out 3.5 million workers and to have been the biggest strike in South African history. Yet it ended in disaster, amid lethal ethnic conflict. (Ethnic divisions are not as important as the ideologists of apartheid proclaimed, but they are a lot more important than ANC propaganda has allowed for, and they are increasingly salient since the scrapping of the apartheid laws.) Most of the ANC leaders are Xhosa, and the workers who willingly followed their

lead were mainly Xhosa. At the President Steyn gold mine, Basotho miners wanted to go on working, and were attacked by Xhosa strikers. After 69 miners had been killed and 180 injured, the management closed the mine, leaving 2,500 miners temporarily unemployed. The greatest strike in South African history had done a little damage to the mine owners: its principal victims were the miners themselves. After that experience, the goldminers are unlikely to put themselves in the front line of the mass-action programme. One day and two-day token strikes there will be, but hardly much more. Goldminers and other

blacks who are employed have a lot to lose. The general strike is a dream, and sustained strikes of any kind are improbable.

Boycotts are probable, but they are unprofitable. They can hurt small white businesses, especially in the Eastern Cape, but they also hurt blacks, and have to be maintained by intimidation. School boycotts are the most damaging to whites. Those who took part in the prolonged school boycotts from 1986 on are known as "the lost generation", educationally speaking, and are a source of worry to the ANC. As for demonstrations and sit-ins, these would

be damaging to the government only if the security forces were seen to react too fiercely. Mr de Klerk is probably firmly enough in control to prevent that.

The mass-action programme, then, will not work if it is seen as an attempt to force the government to hand over power to the ANC. I believe the leaders know that, and I think their real purpose is different. Paradoxically, I think the real purpose of the programme of mass action is to demonstrate its own futility and prepare the way for agreement with Mr de Klerk on something very close to his present terms.

Effectively, the ANC is already near to such an agreement; it has conceded the principle, vital to the president, of a constitutional veto for a minority: there is a difference of only 5 per cent over how large the minority has to be. This is not in itself an adequate reason for mass action, but there are other reasons.

The ANC leaders know that

when they reach agreement with Mr de Klerk, on any terms short of a complete transfer of power to them (and no such terms are obtainable), they are going to be denounced by many of their followers for having sold out. These hardliners are people who claim that the ANC can make South Africa ungovernable if it does not get its demands in full. The ANC leadership has apparently decided to let these people have their heads for a few months, by the end of which most blacks will be heartily sick of mass action and ready to accept compromise.

The ANC leadership's line is calculating and pragmatic. It may seem cynical, but is justifiable if it can take South Africa to a compromise settlement. It is a pity that, of its nature, this tactic has to be accompanied by wild rhetoric. Nelson Mandela last month compared President de Klerk to Hitler and South African blacks to Hitler's victims, the Jews. This comparison refutes itself by the mere fact that it was made. Imagine a report from the Berlin of 50 years ago under the headline "German Jew denounces Hitler".

The latest outbreak of soccer violence is a further example of media attention providing an incentive for social disorder, says Janet Daley

Only a fortnight ago, I was contemplating writing a column that might have been headed "Whatever happened to soccer hooliganism?" The cult of violence at domestic football matches seemed to have given way to joy-riding as the favourite proletarian horror story of the media. If the ritual clashing of team supporters had not totally disappeared, it had at least become invisible to the general public, subsiding into the unremarkable bouts of Saturday night brawling which have always been part of working class culture. Perhaps Hillsborough had been a turning point, I was going to speculate: mindless crowd behaviour had reached its apotheosis and the consequences had purged football followers of their intermeddled hatreds.

But what is more likely is that the bloodlust of the English terraces was a passing fashion that simply blew itself out, as youth cults invariably do. And that it had expired was, as much as anything, because the media grew tired of cataloguing its repetitive excesses. To the extent that drunken neanderthals were still using soccer as a pretext for a more entertaining blood sport, their behaviour had ceased to be a phenomenon which was duly recorded by a faithful press and grimly analysed by portentous commentators.

At home, attention has been diverted from 20-year-old football thugs to 15-year-old car thieves staging impromptu hot-rod rallies on their sink council estates. If you want to get into the tabloids these days, you have to do more than commit grievous bodily

harm to an alter ego who is, apart from gang loyalties, indistinguishable from yourself. Now the camp-following photographers and solemn social pundits are all beaming in on juveniles who express themselves by stealing high performance cars from the rich. And, true to form, this new craze is flowering in the glow of public attention. Bred in a society that normally regards them as beneath its notice, disinherited by an education system that sees no need to introduce them to higher literacy (or even to teach them to speak their own language properly), proletarian children have found another route to glory.

And so soccer hooligans are has-beens, as dead as a pop group who haven't had a hit for five years. Until they go abroad. Then once again they are offered star billing by print and broadcast media who begin speculating weeks in advance on whether England's reputation will once again be disgraced. Grave warnings and dire predictions are issued at the highest levels. Figures of political and social authority who show no interest in the moral vacuum into which working class life has descended until it mutates into another form of delinquency, express their deep concern. And the whole farago becomes an overture for a public spectacle that has now had so much anticipatory fanfare as to be inevitable.

With the world's press gathered about them and the cameras rolling, the famous "small minority of troublemakers who are not even true football fans" relive their finest moments. Nonentities become superstars. The inarticulate find themselves briefly in



Spirit of the terraces: the football supporter can be seduced by an image of himself as anti-hero

possession of power. Because of their actions, government ministers are forced to make public apologies to foreign heads of state. Front pages are cleared of important political news to make room for their exploits. For a moment, they are dignified once again by the title of "social

problem": no longer common yobs or drunken louts who affect nothing and interest nobody, but the infamous horde in dread of whom foreign cities must barricade themselves and police forces reorganise.

And, as the Swedes have discovered, it is too late for a simple dose

of kindly tolerance. Cheap beer and a humane welcome do not instantly roll back the manic bestiality that has become the currency of this way of life. Where the Italians did not succumb with brute force, so the Scandinavians have failed with liberal decency.

There is no way to conduct such an experiment, but it would be interesting to test whether the lifespan of a social problem is prolonged by media attention: to follow two parallel strains of misbehaviour, one of them receiving saturation press coverage and the other being ignored.

I am not talking simply about the danger of encouraging imitative behaviour. Whenever the press reports an innovative crime, they risk exciting the imaginations of countless fantasists. What I am suggesting is that the media are actively involved in elaborating urban myths which are irresistibly seductive to the impressionable. Sporadic thuggery is turned into an icon of class identification because the media are no longer simply recording events but orchestrating them. The soccer hooligan becomes an anti-hero in a script which he would not have had the resources to write for himself.

At the moment, the air is full of outrage against newspapers that have the effrontery to let ordinary people in on the open secrets of public life. But if ever there was a real case for press self-restraint it is in this area of working-class demonology. The tabloids play a peculiarly disingenuous role. Under the guise of condemnation, they in fact serve as the most prized arena for notoriety within the delinquent community. What greater renown for a job than to appear on the front page of *The Sun*, his own journal of record?

The quality media, meanwhile, engage in their varying brands of paternalism and hubnug, elevating the anarchic and pointless to something systematic and explicable. In the perverse logic of punditry, the most degrading and self-defeating behaviour becomes dignified with an official taxonomy and is rewarded with painstaking attention. The lesson is clear: behave well and you will sink without trace in your anonymous milieu. Behave badly and you will be a star.



...and moreover
CRAIG BROWN

Gimme the money, man!" said the senior production account executive, "or the kid gets it between the eyes."

We were sitting in a conference suite on the eighth floor of a smart hotel, attending a meeting of the prestigious Cleeshay Films, the TV production company. Cleeshay Films is, as you know, the leading independent producer of high-quality prestige drama series, renowned for its very high production values. Last year Cleeshay Films brought to our screens such classic programmes as the fascinating survey of life under the Raj, *Turban Terror*; the re-creation of the ups and downs of life in a Victorian household, *M'lady the Mass Murderer*; and that marvellously nostalgic trip down memory lane and worthy successor to *The Edwardian Diary of a Country Lady*, *The Edwardian Pump-Action Shotgun of a Country Lady*.

They are also, of course, wholly committed to contemporary productions reflecting the rich variety of life in modern, multi-cultural Britain, as such excellent drama series as *Spaghetti Junction*, *Serial Killer*, winner of three BAFTA awards, bear testament.

"I don't have no dough, man!" replied the chief corporate production secretary, brandishing a meat-hook in one hand. "An' I don't want no hassle, okay?" said OKAY? The chief corporate production secretary then chased the senior

production account executive out on to the balcony. After a brief struggle, they both slipped and plummeted eight floors to their deaths. "Aaaaagh!" they said, in a brief show of unity.

"That just about wraps up financing," said our chairman, moving to the next item on the agenda. "So let's deal with casting now, shall we?" Our chairman is a bluff, straightforward, big-hearted fellow, the kind of bloke you feel you can trust, all of which adds up to the fact that he is a leading figure in a secret neo-Nazi movement, and probably an underground worker for the CIA to boot.

The casting director suddenly entered the conference suite, carving through the wall in a burn-out Ferrari with a young, nameless thug in a balacava and a Mickey Mouse mask hot on his tail. The thug drew out a handgun, placing its barrel in the mouth of the casting director. At the last second, the casting director's wife rushed into the suite and, with a yell, launched herself at the young thug, who fell over the balcony.

The casting director then took his seat around the table and went over the various casting options. As we were all pondering the relative merits of two leading actors, a tea lady appeared pushing a trolley containing a choice of sandwiches, hand-grenades and high-explosives. "REVENGE IS MINE SAITH THE LORD!" she screamed, pulling off her wig to reveal herself as Alfonso, the crazed international terror-

ist wanted by police in 15 continents. Only the quick thinking of the continuity supervisor in throwing the trolley and Alfonso over the balcony prevented a catastrophe of potentially tragic proportions.

So far, our meeting had been very productive, with a marvellous selection of unoriginal ideas down on paper, all drawn from unreality. Cleeshay Films is always on the look-out for gritty dramas, authentic to the feel of life as it is lived on modern British television. At that point, a secretary from Storyline Development, who had been raped and left for dead the day before by a Mason very highly placed in the government, turned to the chairman and said: "You're my Dad. Don't deny it or I'll send for the cops." She turned to the chief lighting executive and said: "It was you on the Grassy Knoll that fateful day in Dallas: you who betrayed the dreams of a nation!"

"Well, if nobody has anything further to add," said the chairman, shuffling his papers. "I think I will draw the meeting to a close, but I would ask that none of you reveal to anyone outside this room the way in which bovine spongiform encephalitis is affecting nuclear power plants, and that Sizewell B is even as we speak, prancing around in lunatic fashion off the west coast of Scotland."

And so another season of penetrating drama series from Cleeshay Films was created. Believe me - it's all so authentic. It's unreal.

It's our money

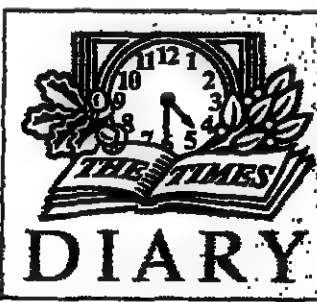
NEIL KINNOCK'S failure to become president of the Confederation of European Socialist Parties - he ruled himself out in Lisbon last night because of the fallout from Maastricht - was compounded by a row between the party leadership in Walsworth Road and Labour MEPs over funding for the next European election.

Last week Larry Whitty, party general secretary, flew to Strasbourg to ask Labour MEPs to hand over the £450,000 they will receive in EC "information money" before the 1994 elections. Instead he came back with half that figure after MEPs voted effectively to declare UDI and keep £200,000 for themselves.

Their decision means that after other MEPs the Labour party has only £150,000 to spend on a national campaign for the 1994 elections. "It is selfish beyond belief. I hope they feel guilty because they deserve to," said the decision has appalled other socialist parties in Europe, all of which hand over their information money to a centrally run campaign. The vote reinforced old fears among Euro-socialists that the British Labour party remains an unreliable partner.

Glyn Ford, leader of the Labour MEPs, had backed Whitty's appeal but was overruled by his colleagues. Speaking from Lisbon, where he was at Kinno's side, Ford said: "I did not agree with the conclusion they felt that as we had concentrated resources at the centre in the run-up to the general election, individual members should keep the money for their own campaigning purposes."

Quite what Labour MEPs in-



tend to do with the money, which will be allocated to those in safe seats and those in marginal seats, is still unclear. "It will pay for Christmas cards to all our constituents," says one cynical MEP who voted against it.

All the news

WHILE most broadsheet newspapers have scrupulously avoided repeating the more controversial allegations in Andrew Morton's book on the royal marriage, the BBC has been distinctly less cautious. On the day of the book's publication yesterday, Radio 4's *Today* staged a huge plus for the book in a bad-tempered exchange between the author and the BBC's John Humphrys. In it Morton gave his interpretation of an incident in which the Princess of Wales fell down a flight of stairs while pregnant.

While the broadsheet press has adopted an unofficial code in reporting the story, BBC Radio, it seems, does not even have the most informal guidelines. A spokesman for *Today* says: "As a general rule we do not have policy meetings on individual stories." Even ones involving the marriage of the future monarch? "No."

The spokesman insisted: "John Humphrys took a perfectly reasonable line of questioning to a prime

source. It was not repeating the allegations." But hold on. Humphrys mentioned the most sensational allegation of Morton's book at least six times. "But that was to try to affirm the veracity of the story, which is very much in the public eye." So the BBC did repeat the allegation? "It was legitimate to do so." In other words, yes.

From harp strings to heart strings. Penny Gore Brown, who on Thursday will marry Iwan Jones, the harpist who entertains MPs in the Harcourt room at the Palace of Westminster, will force her new spouse to eat his words.



Before they met Jones told a newspaper interviewer: "If a woman came along she would have to agree to take second place to the harp. It's my whole life and always will be. Women want too much. I just don't have the time and I've already settled down with my harp." Such consistency must come from associating with so many politicians over the years.

Ashes to Aussies

THE battle for the Ashes, due to be resumed when Australia tour England next summer, is about to

take on a new turn with the news that the three-inch-high urn is to make only its second public appearance in 70 years outside the Memorial Gallery at Lords.

The Ashes are due to go on loan to the V&A museum in November as part of a three-month exhibition of sporting trophies, prompting Australians to reopen the question of why, even when they manage to beat the whingeing Poms, the Ashes remain at Lords. England's attitude, say the Australians, smacks of "heads you win, tails we lose".

True, the Ashes did make one visit to Australia. In 1987 for the bicentenary, under armed guard on the Prince and Princess of Wales's flight. But even when Australia held the Ashes for nearly 20 years before losing them at the Oval in 1953, the urn remained in its glass cabinet at Lords.

David Frith, Australian editor of *Wisden Cricketer Monthly*, says a change in the arrangement would be a marvellous gesture. "I suspect, however, it will never happen. Lords is determined to hold on to them regardless."

The BBC has come up with a unique solution to the problems of *Canary Wharf*. Paint it black (for mourning, perhaps?) or build a second tower alongside, are the recommendations of a long-awaited report into the difficulties of Docklands. Not that the solutions will be of much use to the Reichmann brothers. The BBC is more concerned that the 800ft tower is apparently the cause of "ghosting" on thousands of television screens in east London. Painting it black, it says, would stop signals from Crystal Palace bouncing off the building. Otherwise, "another equally tall but more absorbent building across the path of the incident of reflected beams" would do the trick.



AN END TO DELORS

How can the British government possibly support an extension of Jacques Delors' presidency of the European Commission? John Major regards M Delors as the antithesis of everything he believes a Europe of co-operating nations should be about. Only last week, M Delors outrageously demanded that Britain should suppress its opinions of the future of Europe during the forthcoming British presidency, with not the slightest intention of suppressing his own.

M Delors is what he is, a left-wing French politician turned unelected Colerbertian world statesman. He believes strongly in a centralised Europe and explains boldly what he means by that, a federal state dominated by a strong bureaucracy answerable to what he knows will always be a weak European parliament. There is a long, if not entirely reputable, French tradition behind such a Europe. Recently a desperate M Delors has surmised that some matters might after all be left to national parliaments, such as crisps, beer and sausage "harmonisation". But the culture in which he moves and has his being is unrepentantly interventionist. It is the culture of big and ubiquitous government, of high taxation, of large inter-regional transfers and of trade union and industrial protectionism.

M Delors has, to his credit, seldom hidden his ideology. He is no shrinking servant of his Commission, let alone of the EC's Council of Ministers. He is a man of intelligence and will, whose French staff have come to dominate the Brussels machine and turn the Commission from an arm of the ministerial council into a distinctive centre of power itself, so much so that the Council of Ministers has had to set up a separate secretariat.

M Delors represents in all its dazzle the European aggrandisement and quick march to unionism that enthused most of political Europe in the 1970s and much of the 1980s. As his predecessor Lord Jenkins implies in his memoirs, Brussels knows that it has either to go on gathering power to itself, or it

would wither and die. European co-operation will not and must not wither or die. But M Delors' personal vision of the inevitable growth of Brussels power is indeed withering and will die. That a Danish referendum should have been the agent of that decline is an accident of history. That Britain, long the Euro-realist, has been upstaged by Denmark does not matter.

What is important is that Britain should now recognise the new direction. It should search out the best person to lead the Commission beyond the end of this year into a new era of active intergovernmental co-operation. Europe desperately needs a minimalist, a subsidiarist, a humble and civil servant, a believer in getting things done, not one who pursues visions of glory for himself and his office. There must be a hundred good candidates.

The Foreign Office, whose claim to be as Euro-sceptical as anybody is fast losing credibility, has impaled itself on a hook. It did a deal with the Germans on M Delors' extension last year, in return for an understanding that the German foreign ministry would return the favour in due course. To sell this deal to the growing number of Tory MPs opposed to Maasticht, Downing Street is this week cobbling together an argument that to support M Delors would be an act of Machiavellian cunning: his views may be objectionable but he is impotent; he is already a lame duck; his every deed aids the Euro-sceptical cause; leave him in place rather than risk a more effectively unionist successor.

This tactic is too clever by half. It undercuts M Delors' capacity for further upsides. It ignores the need for Europe to press ahead faster on enlargement and on free trade after a decade of distracting battles over the Commission's self-aggrandisement. The British government rejects M Delors' vision. It must therefore reject him. For Britain to support him in his bid for an extended term would be shamelessly cynical.

DRY BEDS, MUDDY WATERS

In places the delightful River Darent in Kent dwindles in summer to a muddy trickle, in other places to nothing. Passers-by who look on its dry bed with sadness assume this to be evidence of severe drought, caused by act of God or global warming or even a statistical freak in the climate, but surely no one's fault.

But the state of the Darent is not an accident. The chairman of the National Rivers Authority, Lord Crickhowell, said yesterday that it was caused not by the notorious drought but by "gross over-abstraction". The Darent's water, and the water in the ground that feeds it, are being deliberately drained for consumer purposes.

The culprit is Thames Water plc, the largest of the privatised water companies. The company is not short of water. It boasts that this year its reservoirs are full. No hosepipe bans are likely, although it is one of many authorities that lose up to a fifth of their water through broken pipes. How then did the Thames Water get permission to extract water so damagingly from the Darent? The answer is that the extraction licences were issued by none other than the Thames Water Authority, the present body's public-sector predecessor.

Yesterday the National Rivers Authority, which emerged post-privatisation as the new licensing authority for river extraction, barred its regulatory teeth. It announced that it was using its statutory powers to demand that Thames Water should cut its allowed extraction limit from the Darent by a third by September 1, and by another large amount after that. The Darent was at the head of a list of 40 dwindling rivers in England and Wales. The NRA, which had been seeking voluntary restraint from water companies with abstraction licences in order to restore the levels of those rivers, has finally run out of patience.

Not surprisingly the Thames Water Authority was one of the least enthusiastic of all water utilities at the concept of a National

Rivers Authority. At first the utilities had persuaded the minister in charge of water privatisation, Nicholas Ridley, to leave their powers intact. Concerning rivers, they would continue to be in charge of water extraction, sewage discharge, water quality, and river level. In other words they would be allowed to go on being poacher and gamekeeper in one. Under pressure from conservationists and water consumers Mr Ridley changed his mind from his 1986 white paper and went for the idea of an independent river regulator, the NRA.

The authority has been up and running only since 1989. Although its start has been promising there are already schemes for dismemberment. A new environmental protection agency, the government has said, is to take most of the NRA's water-quality powers. The agriculture ministry wants those relating to land drainage. The latter move would again blur the line between poacher and gamekeeper in water management. Mr Ridley's job is to act as broker between the farming industry and the Treasury and Brussels, not to represent the nation's interest in conservation, of water or anything else. But the idea of land drainage being transferred from the NRA to the new protection agency has upset the purists with the prospect of an otherwise solely inspecting body employing drainage-ditch diggers.

The resulting hiatus over the new agency — the proposal was in the Tory manifesto but missing from the Queen's Speech — has given the NRA a chance to prove itself. A tough policeman will be needed to arbitrate between different demands on water resources. The conflicts of interest are growing as demand itself grows, and water can no longer be treated as a free commodity in unlimited supply. But if that means being strict with the water extraction plans of such as the mighty Thames Water, in defence of the tiny River Darent and its kin, now is almost too late.

SORRY MINISTER

Before returning to London yesterday, the British minister, David Mellor, declared in Malmö that he was ashamed of drunken England soccer yobs. But was he speaking in his role as secretary for national heritage or minister for fun? Mr Mellor's new department was designed to bring together the pleasures of life, from sport and tourism to arts and broadcasting, newspapers and libraries, with a national lottery. It is loosely hoped, raising £1 billion a year to pay for the more speculative parts of them.

Yesterday's apology to the Swedes was one of Mr Mellor's first official acts as a cabinet minister. Drunken violence at football is one of the oldest English notions of both fun and heritage. Football began as a primitive war game, in which neighbouring settlements fought each other with frequent casualties and fatalities in order to propel an inflated bladder, or in the Dark Ages an alien's head, into enemy territory. But not even the Anglo-Saxons were silly enough to set up cheap beer-bents in the hope of persuading their invading Norse berserkers in their long ships to behave less violently. For the Norsemen to invite the Saxons back to Scandinavia in this fashion is indeed a revenge for many a Viking raid.

Heritage is a modern weasel word. The only possible meaning in the dictionary that can apply to Mr Mellor's department is "That which comes from the circumstances of birth; an inherited lot or portion; the condition or state transmitted from ancestors." By this definition, hooliganism is a far older and more traditional part of the English heritage than stately homes, opera, or even the BBC. There is no point in the

minister for English heritage complaining at his first question time yesterday about English football fans behaving like wild animals. What else did he think he was appointed to preserve?

The same argument applies to the semantics of his nickname. Fun means diversion, amusement, sport and also boisterous jocularity or gaiety. That is what the lagers yobs think they are having. One man's fun is another man's feeble protest. American football supporters regularly behave this way without hysterical journalists running riot across the tabloid press.

Heritage and fun are two departments of life in which the English idiosyncrasy wants no instruction from politicians. Ministers of culture are foreign, indeed positively French, officials. If Lord Archer becomes Mr Mellor's junior minister for fun in the House of Lords, as rumoured, he will be adding another target to the old English heritage of making fun of their political rulers. The football in the European championship so far has been mind-numbingly unfun in its tedium and defensiveness. Crowds, not to mention television watchers, are having to endure 120 minutes of hoofing and hypocritical writhing for every goal scored. Until a new scoring method is introduced enabling results to occur other than by passing back to the goalkeeper and by unpenalised head-butting, it is hard to see how soccer can possibly elevate itself beyond being a sideshow to "crowd trouble". Mr Mellor might apply his talents to this task, unless he wishes to go down in history as nothing more than the Secretary of State for Public Apologies.

Tory unfairness in creating peers

From Lord Jenkins of Hillhead

Sir, Since the general election, on four different lists and for a variety of stated purposes, 38 new peerages have been created. Of these 21 have gone to Conservatives (who on April 9 polled 43 per cent of the votes cast), ten have gone to the Labour party (who polled 36 per cent of the votes cast), three have gone to those who are or have been associated with fringe parties (which polled 14 per cent of the votes cast), two (for the Lord Chief Justice and the chairman of the Countryside Commission) have gone to those outside any party, and one to the ex-Speaker, who becomes a cross-bencher. Only one has gone to the Liberal Democrats, who polled 18 per cent of the votes cast.

Thus the Conservative strength in the House of Lords has been increased by one for every 640,000 votes, the Labour party by one for every 1,115,000, the fringe parties by one for 194,000 and the Liberal Democrats by one for its nearly six million votes.

This can hardly be justified on the ground that the Conservative party as the government had need to fortify its numerical weakness in the House of Lords. It already had 465 peers as compared with 114 for the Labour party and 59 for the Liberal Democrats. Nor does the quality of its list of so-called "working peers" (commented upon by your own parliamentary correspondents on June 13 as hardly matching that of the Labour party) suggest an urgent need of those with outstanding senatorial claims.

The House of Lords is not of course an elected chamber, but nor is it one to which the traditional anti-proportional representation arguments (which sway some people but not me) can possibly apply: it does not make or destroy governments. In all these circumstances the peerage creation policy pursued by Mr Major does seem to achieve a remarkable combination of party jockeying and anti-democratic perversity.

Partly by accident and partly as a function of old loyalties, the Liberal Democrats have been less grossly under-represented in the House of Lords than in the House of Commons. But we are an ageing group, and by refusing us any approach to a fair share of reinforcement Mr Major seems resolved on the deliberate destruction of such approach to a reasonable balance as has previously existed.

Yours faithfully,
ROY JENKINS
(Leader of the Liberal Democrat peers),
House of Lords,
June 15.

Cambridge traffic

From Mr Richard Rhodes James

Sir, I wish to say how thankful I am that all traffic has been banned from the centre of Cambridge during certain hours (between, June 10).

The freedom to walk down Sidney Sussex Street or Market Street or Trinity Street without having to look behind to see what may be coming, even if it is only a bicycle, has to be experienced. I believe I have realised what a very small area is affected. Let the pedestrian have just a little bit of peace so that he can gaze around in undisurbed wonder.

Yours truly,
RICHARD RHODES JAMES,
15 Almoner Avenue, Cambridge.

From Mrs Ruth Colyer

Sir, I lived in Cambridge from 1915 to 1936. The accepted custom was that at 90 years old one could switch to a tricycle.

Yours faithfully,
R. COLYER,
Orchardside, Candys Lane,
Shillingstone, Dorset.

Charity change

From Mrs Elisabeth Hoodless

Sir, Your report (June 10) of the Archbishop of Canterbury's concern that charity directors had changed their group's name from Moving Spirits to Directors' Network should alarm your readers: we remain energetically moving spirits, but our secretaries and other guests at clubs where we dine were fearful that we were indulging in seances. Hence the change.

Yours sincerely,
ELISABETH HOODLESS
(Secretary), Directors' Network,
17 Cross Street, N1.

Country house revival

From Mr John S. Anderson

Sir, Creating new examples of the English country house, as advocated by Brian Clouston (June 8), makes sense. The value of our traditional country houses — both large and small — is recognised world-wide and it is an aberration of the present planning system that it should virtually prohibit all further similar development.

Well documented in literature which is being revived and popularised by television adaptation, the role of the country house should not be allowed to lapse. Strangling regulations offer little opportunity to a present-day Soames to enable the trainee Lutyens or Jekyll to add to this peculiarly British heritage.

However, the preservation of the

A matter of opinion at election time

From Professor Robert M. Worcester

Sir, As a result of the publicity surrounding the Market Research Society's enquiry into opinion polls, published on June 12, and compounded by your leading article of June 13 ("What the polls don't know"), it may pass into political folklore that "the polls always over-estimate Labour and underestimate the Conservatives".

This is not true, but it will serve politicians to make believe it is from time to time, and we will no doubt be hearing them over and over again proclaim it in the future. In the past, it has just been the politicians who have promulgated these myths. Now, sadly, and in the face of evidence to the contrary, they will claim it is true because the Market Research Society says so.

Included in the press release which accompanied the MRS survey were the words "the Inquiry Team has identified a residual error which may well have existed in polls since 1959. This leads to an overestimate of the Labour vote by 1.5 to 2 per cent and a similar underestimate of the Conservative share". Yet their own report contradicted the words of their news release, as the report identified a "bias" of -0.8 per cent for the Conservatives and a "bias" of +1.4 per cent for Labour, averaging the difference between the final, eve-of-poll polls and the actual result across the past ten elections.

The polls got it wrong in 1992 and the contention is that there has been a 30-year "persistent" bias favouring Labour. The "bias" (if it is that, and not just "late swing" or "differential turnout") over the nine previous elections is less than half of one per cent (-0.3 per cent for the Tories and just over one per cent (+1.1 per cent) for Labour.

But if you take not 1959 to 1987 but the last five elections over the past 20 years, starting with the two elections in 1974, the so-called "bias" falls to only -0.2 per cent for the Tories and -0.2 per cent for Labour — in other words, just two people in a thousand. And if you take only the last three elections there is

actually an equal, and positive, +0.3 per cent "bias" for both major parties. Three people in a thousand, and both in the same direction.

Any so-called Liberal "bias" is minuscule: ten elections -0.1 per cent, nine -0.2 per cent, five -0.2 per cent, three -0.3 per cent.

Your leading article began by saying that "those three little monosyllables — 'we were wrong' — are not words that habitually pass the lips of pollsters". Certainly not, when the MORI survey result (published in *The Times* on election day, 1987) was within 1 per cent of the share of each party, as was the MORI result in the preceding four national elections.

But there is no denying that in 1992 we got it wrong. We have just published a 60-page report of our analysis of what our post-mortem has uncovered, some of which was reported by Peter Kiddle in *The Times* on June 13 ("Pollsters deny figures have been wrong for 30 years"). And that is backed up by thousands of post-election interviews and hundreds of pages of computer printout. We know now, and the MRS enquiry has confirmed, that over half of the discrepancy of four people in a hundred is accounted for by late swing and differential turnout.

We asked literally hundreds of questions for *The Times* and our other clients during the campaign, and there are clues that we didn't read in the figures that we can now see. But it remains true that there is no other tool for the understanding of human behaviour and attitude to compare with the sample survey, with all its limitations of sampling accurately and asking the right questions.

It is too early to say what we will be doing differently next time. Except to say we'll do everything we can, and do so very carefully.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT M. WORCESTER
(Chairman, MORI),
32 Old Queen Street, SW1,
June 15.

Thailand's image

From Mr Derek Tonkin

Sir, Your report (June 11) that the King of Thailand's decision to appoint Cambridge-educated Anand Panyacharan as Thailand's prime minister "would appear to go a long way to restoring the image of a monarch who had suffered badly for his failure to act quickly" after the recent bloody suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Bangkok.

The notion that the king's image has been tarnished by appearing to act so tardily is not shared by any Thai I met in Bangkok after recent sad events. It is generally known that the king was so closely "guarded" during the recent troubles that he was effectively prevented from knowing at the time how brutally his army had dealt with the demonstrators. There was virtually no local television coverage until well after the events.

However, the intervention of his daughter Princess Sirindhorn, who was at the time in Paris, and the

intense efforts of privy councillors Professor Sanya Dharmasakdi and General Prem Tinsulanonda to gain access to the king enabled him to understand the full horror of what was happening; so much so that within a matter of hours, if not minutes, he had summoned General Suchinda to appear before him.

Though the television presentation of the audience showed the king in a compassionate mood, there is a coterie of Thailand-watchers in London who seem to believe that Thai television ought to have shown the king actually berating the general. Such treatment of General Suchinda would have been totally unacceptable in Thai cultural terms and there would have been astonishment among pro-democracy supporters if anything of the kind had been broadcast.

Yours sincerely,
DEREK TONKIN (Ambassador to Thailand, 1986-9),
Heathfields, Berry Lane,
Worpleston, Guildford, Surrey.

Docklands links

From the Director General of the Institution of Civil Engineers

Sir, Economic development cannot take place without supporting infrastructure, in particular efficient transport. This point has been emphasised often in reports produced by this institution.

Nowhere is this interdependence more in evidence than in the London Docklands. Without adequate outside transport links, the Docklands will not flourish. In this equation, Canary Wharf is but one factor. The private sector has invested massively in Docklands, and the government has also invested substantially: for example, the roadbuilding programme is the largest in the UK. Much of this investment must be at risk.

Lack of direction

From the Director of the Courtauld Institute Galleries

Sir, We are a new attraction in Westminster, offering the public an art collection of international renown. With encouragement from the London Tourist Board, we made a formal request last July to Westminster City Council for three pedestrian signs, in traditional brown and white, at strategic points by Temple Tube station and in The Strand, to direct those seeking to find us.

We eventually received a reply in

early April, the gist of which was that as we were on a main thoroughfare, and to minimise "sign clutter", we were unlikely to qualify for signage. I sympathise with the desire to eliminate clutter from our streets, but we occupy a Grade I listed building and are rightly much restricted as to what signs may be displayed on the facade.

They arrange matters so much better in Paris and Madrid.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS FARR, Director,
Courtauld Institute Galleries,
Somerset House, Strand, WC2.

By combining Brian Clouston's suggestion with our own we could perhaps achieve, at the end of the twentieth century, country houses in parkland as distinguished as those of our eminent predecessors.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA STYLES (Chairman,
Planning Applications Committee
(South) Lewes District Council),
1 Ales Place, Fife Road,
Seaford, East Sussex,
June 10.

the planning department in Lewes has been toying with the idea of a national competition for a house of innovative modern design — the prizewinner to have the privilege of erecting the house on surplus agricultural land.

By combining Brian Clouston's suggestion with our own we could perhaps achieve, at the end of the twentieth century, country houses in parkland as distinguished as those of our eminent predecessors.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA STYLES (Chairman,
Planning Applications Committee
(South) Lewes District Council),
1 Ales Place, Fife Road,
Seaford, East Sussex,
June 10.

Population as a priority after Rio

From Lady Medawar and others

Sir, The Earth summit is over: the problems it hardly touched remain. Every 100 hours, for example, there are one million more births than deaths in the world.

Whether or not the world achieves a biologically sustainable economy will be partly determined by the size of the global population when it stabilises. Whether the number of people will be twice or three times the current 5.6 billion will depend largely on how the unmet demand for family planning is tackled.

Family planning reduces maternal deaths, enhances the status of women and contributes immeasurably to the solution of environmental problems; but everywhere there are shortages of contraceptives, waiting lists for voluntary sterilisation and large numbers of unsafe abortions. People all over the world want smaller families. The Earth summit could not meet their need. All the more reason why we must do everything we can to help them — and ourselves.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN MEDAWAR,
MALCOLM POTTS,
JOHN GUILLEBAUD,
Margaret Pyke Centre and Trust,
15 Bateman's Buildings,
Soho Square, W1,
June 15.

From Mr Eric Jeffs

Sir, Rio counts for nothing without a serious dialogue on population growth and family planning. Even if the population stabilises at double its present level, the consequences for the environment are far greater than we have been prepared to consider.

For example, the proposed treaty on forest management and conservation was bound to be an irrelevance when so much of the growing population of the Third World depends on firewood as its main source of energy.

But consider the wider implications for energy supply of another five billion people in these countries. Many will be congregated in grossly polluted mega-cities, with a quasi-European life style: islands of high energy consumption in a sea of rural poverty.

In many of these countries power plant will have to be built to supply 2,500 billion kilowatt hours a year. It would need a minimum of 300,000 megawatts of new generating plant to be built — five times the present installed capacity in the UK — and probably much of it will be coal-fired plant of the most basic kind, of low efficiency and consequently high carbon dioxide emission.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC JEFFS (European editor),
Turbotronics International,
Teal, Moat Lane,
Prestwood, Great Missenden,
Buckinghamshire,
June 15.

Death from smoking

From Professor Richard Peto, FRS

Sir, Our recent report for the World Health Organisation ("Mortality from tobacco in developed countries", *The Lancet*, May 23) estimated that, in industrialised countries, tobacco is now causing about two million deaths a year, killing at least a third of those who smoke cigarettes regularly. But, Bernard Levin ("Rise of the cigarette police", June 1) seems to have based his long and vigorous attack on it chiefly on the mistaken belief that it attributed all the deaths of smokers to tobacco. It did not indeed, although those who smoke are more than twice as likely to die over the next few years as those who do not, it attributed fewer than half of their deaths to tobacco. Perhaps wisely, he attempts no other serious scientific criticisms.

Mr Levin claims to be taking up cudgels to defend "the most savagely persecuted minority in the contemporary advanced world: the smokers". Perhaps, however, the real defenders of smokers are those who provide clear and accurate information about the large risks, and the real persecutors are those in journalism or, particularly, in advertising who seek to obscure the medical evidence.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD PETO,
Clinical Trial Service Unit,
ICRF Cancer Studies Unit,
Radcliffe Infirmary,
Oxford OX2 6HE,
June 12.

Heavenly powers

From Mr A. F. Prewett

Sir, Airline passengers will be relieved that the government has their safety at heart after reading the following extract from clause 10 of the 1992 finance bill: "... (3) This section shall apply in relation to aircraft as it applies in relation to vehicles and vessels but the power to stop and search in subsection (i) shall not be available in respect of aircraft which are airborne."

Yours faithfully,
A. F. PREWETT
(Deputy secretary),
The Society of British
Aerospace Companies, Ltd.,
29 King Street, St James's, SW1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Invesco chief refuses to back Maxwell lifeboat

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LORD Stevens of Ludgate, the chairman of Invesco MIM, the fund manager that handled more than £50 million of the Mirror pension fund, says he feels no moral obligation to donate funds to the new Maxwell pensioners' charity.

In a second blow to the government's hopes that City firms and institutions would donate large sums to help the 32,000 Maxwell pensioners, Andrew Hugh Smith, chairman of the Stock Exchange, also said it would not contribute to the funds because it had not benefited from any of the publisher's share dealings. Last

weekend, Sir John Cuckney was appointed chairman of the new charity and given the task of persuading City institutions that profited from doing business with Robert Maxwell.

After Invesco's annual meeting, however, Lord Stevens underlined his opposition to the fundraising project. He said: "It is premature to start making voluntary contributions before we find out where the pension fund assets are. Moral obligations belong elsewhere, not with us. Our fees were relatively small. My moral obligation is to my shareholders. We managed two pension funds for Maxwell companies, one of which is wholly intact and the Mirror fund, which is almost intact. In the light of

what happened, this is a remarkable achievement."

In his speech to shareholders, Lord Stevens confirmed that Invesco had been served with a writ by the trustees of the Mirror Group pension scheme. This, he said, was claiming £280,000 with a contingent claim of more than £11 million plus damages. The trustees claim that Invesco broke fund management agreements by allowing stock lending to take place.

"In our view, the writ has no merit. We have acted at all times in accordance with the instructions of the trustees. Your board intends to vigorously contest this action," he said.

Invesco managed £53 million of the

Mirror pension fund, and was asked by the fund to transfer assets back to the Common Investment Fund, the pool of the Maxwell pension funds, at various stages last year. After Mr Maxwell's death, £11.3 million of the money was returned to it, although the ownership of the funds may now be contested by the other pension funds, Lord Stevens said, however, that all but £280,000 had been returned to the Mirror pension fund trustees.

He said the group had often had conflicting instructions about the pension funds from Maxwell's organisation. "We just assumed his administration was lousy," he said. The other Maxwell pension funds were large shareholders in Invesco, but

Lord Stevens admitted that ownership of the shares changed regularly.

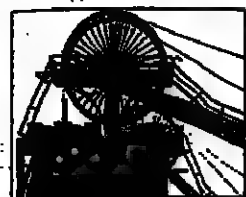
Shareholders at the meeting questioned Lord Stevens repeatedly about Invesco's directors' salaries and about a £3.6 million exceptional provision on the value of the group's employee share option trust.

Later, Lord Stevens admitted that the Maxwell affair was damaging the confidence of Invesco's clients. "All bad publicity upsets people," he said. But he added that the group was continuing to win business in Europe and the Far East.

Spy centre, page 6
Comment, page 23
Law Times, page 29

TODAY IN BUSINESS

COAL WHOLE



British Coal should not be broken up and sold in bits and pieces, but much could be gained from privatising it as a single entity, John Meads writes. Page 23

TRUST IN DEMAND

The Wellcome Trust could increase the size of its summer £4 billion shares issue if, as expected, investment demand is high. Page 20

FRESH CUT



John Clark has taken the axe to several financial and operational items at BET. The 1992 dividend is cut. Pages 20, 22

SLOW REACTION

Slow recovery is in sight for Europe's chemical industry. Special Report, pages 26-28

LAW TIMES

CONVICTIONS



David Pannick, QC, looks at issues raised by the Court of Appeal that quashed the conviction of Judith Ward. Law Times, page 29

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8593 (+0.0076)
German mark 2.9172 (-0.0023)
Exchange index 92.9 (+0.1)

Bank of England official discount (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2026.4 (+1.1)
FT-SE 100 2993.6 (-10.1)
New York Dow Jones 3568.91 (+4.55)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 1965.23 (-430.45)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 10%
3-month Interbank: 10 1/2-10 3/4%
3-month eligible bills: 9 1/2-9 3/4%
US Prime Rate: 6 1/2%
Federal Funds: 3 1/2-3 3/4%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.65-3.63%
30-year bonds: 10 1/2-10 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: \$1.8594, £1.0000
New York: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Frankfurt: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Paris: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Tokyo: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Hong Kong: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Singapore: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Australia: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Canada: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Japan: \$1.8590, £1.0000
South Africa: \$1.8590, £1.0000
New Zealand: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Brazil: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Argentina: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Chile: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Colombia: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Costa Rica: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Cuba: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Czech Republic: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Denmark: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Ecuador: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Egypt: \$1.8590, £1.0000
El Salvador: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Guatemala: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Honduras: \$1.8590, £1.0000
India: \$1.8590, £1.0000
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Morocco: \$1.8590, £1.0000
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Uruguay: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Venezuela: \$1.8590, £1.0000
Zimbabwe: \$1.8590, £1.0000

GOLD

London: \$342.25, £142.70
New York: \$342.25, £142.70
Frankfurt: \$342.25, £142.70
Paris: \$342.25, £142.70
Tokyo: \$342.25, £142.70
Hong Kong: \$342.25, £142.70
Singapore: \$342.25, £142.70
Australia: \$342.25, £142.70
Canada: \$342.25, £142.70
Japan: \$342.25, £142.70
South Africa: \$342.25, £142.70
New Zealand: \$342.25, £142.70
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United Arab Emirates: \$342.25, £142.70
United Kingdom: \$342.25, £142.70
United States: \$342.25, £142.70
Uruguay: \$342.25, £142.70
Venezuela: \$342.25, £142.70
Zimbabwe: \$342.25, £142.70

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$21.25 bbl (\$21.25)

RETAIL PRICES

100.3 May (1991=100)
 1X

EC payment takes trade gap to £2.6bn

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HOPES that a bigger surplus on invisible trade would offset the persistent deficit on Britain's visible trade were dashed with the publication yesterday of the current account data for the first quarter.

The official figures showed heavy downward revisions to invisible earnings in both the first quarter this year and the final quarter of last year. Instead of the projected £900 million invisibles surplus in the first quarter, the surplus is now estimated at £430 million. The surplus for the previous quarter was shaved to £1.14 billion from an original £1.92 billion.

The changes mainly reflected a £1 billion government transfer to the European Community in the first quarter and a large corporate reporting error in the fourth quarter last year. This widened the current account deficit disturbingly to £2.64 billion for the opening three months of this year, despite the continued recession. The deficit had previously been estimated at £2.17 billion. The first quarter compared with a current account deficit of £1.42 billion in the previous quarter and matched the £2.64 billion in the first quarter of last year.

British invisibles, the lobby group, said that overseas earnings from private sector service industries totalled £3 billion in the first quarter, an overall rise of 9 per cent

against the same period last year. Earnings from travel and civil aviation were up an annual 13 and 32 per cent respectively, while financial and other services improved 7 per cent. Despite higher earnings, the private sector surplus on services fell to £1.61 billion in the first quarter, an annual drop of 4 per cent.

Alison Wright, director general of British Invisibles, said the private sector invisibles surplus has remained steady, despite the disappointing overall balance. "The deterioration in the overall balance mainly reflects higher payments to European Community institutions," she said.

Simon Briscoe, economist at Midland Montagu, said the invisibles were still showing a "worrying trend", despite the one-off factors behind the large revisions. He said the lower invisibles figures would depress projections for the coming months, making Britain's current account deficit look worse.

The Treasury made clear that the downward revision in the first quarter had not been unexpected, given the boost large rebates from Brussels had given to the invisibles surplus in the previous quarter. Government statisticians appear unable to build the timing of transfers to and from the Community into the official projections for invisibles. The revision to the fourth quarter of last year was attributed to a large company re-

porting £400 million to £500 million of profits and dividends in the wrong quarter.

The visible trade element of the data, already available from monthly figures, showed the deficit widening to £3.01 billion in the first quarter, about £500 million up on the previous quarter and slightly above the first quarter last year. The new figures mean that the current account deficit for the whole of last year stands at £5.2 billion, still the smallest since 1987 but about £800 million above the previous estimate.

Annualised, the first-quarter figures would give a current account deficit of more than £11 billion. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, forecast a deficit of £6.5 billion in the Budget in March.

Gordon Brown, the shadow trade secretary, called the figures "disastrous". He said they demonstrated the need for a new industrial policy to boost British exports, investment and jobs.

The effect of the longest on-shore recession since the war on government finances should be evident in Treasury figures out today on the public sector borrowing requirement in May.

City economists expect to see the PSBR to rise to more than £4 billion. Rising unemployment and lower company profits have badly dented government receipts, while public spending on benefits for the jobless continues to increase.



Topping up spending: Peter Rawlins (left) and Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, chairman of the Stock Exchange

Start-up costs soar at Taurus

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE cost of developing the Taurus paperless share trading system had soared to £25 million by the end of March, according to latest figures from the Stock Exchange. The increase, from £14 million the previous year, is likely to anger brokers who contribute to the cost through membership fees.

Tighter cost controls helped the exchange to a pre-tax surplus of £1.5 million in the year to March 31 compared with a loss of £7.6 million. An abnormally high provision of £10 million has been set aside to cover potential tax liabilities.

Income rose from £184.9 million to £194.3 million. Operating costs fell from £182.8 million to £171.3 million. Higher market volumes lifted income from settlement services from £35.4 million to £47.6 million.

Taurus has cost £47 million so far and is not due to become operational much before this time next year. The Stock Exchange expects to spend a maximum of £25 million on research and development costs this financial year, the bulk on Taurus.

Peter Rawlins, chief executive, said spending had been offset by a £23.1 million trading surplus. "It is going as well as a project of this size, scale, and complexity, can go," he said.

Death knell for County NatWest

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Westminster Bank has spelled the end of County NatWest, its investment banking subsidiary, by removing the firm's main equity trading and sales operation and merging it with the bank's treasury and capital markets business.

The move leaves County with a rump of businesses, including corporate finance, asset management and venture capital, and effectively finishes it as a City force. The reorganisation is part of re-

forms at NatWest which are being overseen by Derek Wanless, the new chief executive. The bank is creating NatWest Markets, a division which will combine all the bank's corporate, institutional and investment business.

Mr Wanless decided to dismantle County to give the bank tighter control over the securities business. Martin Owen, the group treasurer, has been promoted to chief executive of NatWest Markets and will report directly to

Mr Wanless, who denied the reshuffle was a prelude to cutbacks in the equities business, which he said had been improving in the past 18 months.

NatWest's action follows years of uncertainty at County. The investment bank expanded into one of the City's largest firms in the months before Big Bang but its reputation was dealt a mortal blow by the Blue Arrow scandal of 1987. Disappointing results followed.

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Fixed component: Joint borrowers, both non-over-65s, aged 25, with an unencumbered mortgage of £50,000 on a property valued at £75,000, repaid over 25 years, assuming completion on 15.06.92. Gross repayments of £443.39 in each of the first seven months then interest at 9.99% (11.9% APR), followed by gross repayments of £456.16 until the loan is repaid. Variable component: Joint borrowers, both non-over-65s, aged 25, with an unencumbered mortgage of £50,000 on a property valued at £75,000, repaid over 25 years, assuming completion on 15.06.92. Gross repayments of £443.39 in each of the first seven months then interest at 9.99% (11.9% APR), followed by gross repayments of £456.16 until the loan is repaid. Total cost of credit £334,063.67 calculated to include £200 arrangement fee, £200 legal fees, £250 valuation fees, £250 insurance fees, £250 mortgage protection fees. 300 monthly contractual payments of £55. The cost of the variable component quoted may differ from the actual amount. Buildings and contents insurance based on sum insured of £70,000 and lower rating bands of £4.30 per £1000 per annum. Compulsory buildings and contents insurance is £3.50 only. Loan subject to status, type and value of property. Some of the products advertised here are not regulated by the Financial Services Act 1986 and the rules made by the Financial Services Act will not apply to them. Credit limit of up to 25% of the advance may be charged depending on the type of product and credit period. John Charcol is a licensed credit broker.

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Regulator warns power firms

BY MARTIN WALLER

STEPHEN Littlechild, the director general of electricity regulation, has been forced to step into the row over soaring electricity profits after East Midlands Electricity reported pre-tax profits 41 per cent higher at £150 million in the year to end-March.

Professor Littlechild said: "Companies have certainly made large profits - larger than was expected when the government set the price controls. I can well understand customers' concerns about this."

The high profits reflected high price increases last year, a significant part of which was the result of an earlier

wrong estimate of inflation. This year price increases for domestic customers were on average about 2 per cent, below the inflation rate, Professor Littlechild said.

He said he wanted to get rid of the inflation forecasts that had caused the trouble. He would be asking what steps the industry was taking to improve service to customers.

East Midlands is paying a final dividend of 12p, making a total up 13.7 per cent against the notional payment last year.

Professor Littlechild said he was already reviewing price controls. The industry and

observers reacted with relief to his statement, which made it clear there would be no advancement of the timetable to change the regulatory formula.

John Harris, East Midlands chairman, said he saw no cause for alarm in the regulator's statement and described the sharp profits increase last year as "a blip". He said: "The 40 per cent isn't the norm. If 40 per cent increases in profits were liable to be increased year in and year out, I think there would be a legitimate case for reviewing the formula."

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End of a Lotus dream machine

BY ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

LOTUS Cars, Britain's leading sports car maker, has abandoned efforts to return to volume production after losing tens of millions of pounds in the process. The company will today cease production of its Elan model, launched little more than two years ago. Only 3,857 have been built.

More than 300 workers at the company's plant at Hethel, near Norwich, Norfolk, will lose jobs. The company will be reduced to 200 employees, building a single model, the Esprit supercar, in a few hundred examples a year. Arnold, president of Club Lotus - the Lotus owners' club - called the move "an act of vandalism on the British sports car industry. I think it is the first stage in the winding up of Lotus Cars."

He added: "The Elan M100 was the most significant sports car to be produced in Britain for decades. It's absolutely incredible. You run out of courage before the car runs out of cornering ability."

The decision is a severe blow to the ambitions of General Motors, which



Elan: sales flopped

bought Group Lotus, the Lotus Cars parent company, with an eye to obtaining a sporting flagship for its range worldwide. In 1987, GM backed an investment of £54 million in Lotus. Most of the money was spent on the Elan. With a planned production run of 3,000 a year, and a price of £20,000 to £25,000, the Elan was supposed to be the dream-machine of the boy racer worldwide. But sales in the key American market, which was expected to take a third of all production, were a bitter disappointment.

Last year Lotus sold only 2,200 cars. Since some 500 of those were the larger Esprit supercar, volumes of Elan were little more than half of those expected.

In the autumn, Lotus declared more than 300 job losses.

Adrian Palmer, Lotus's managing director, blamed an "extraordinary combination of adverse economic factors." He said the car's launch had coincided with an unforeseen recession of unprecedented depth and duration in all of the car's key markets. "We will be contacting owners to emphasise our commitment to them and to the provision of ongoing service support for their cars," said Mr Palmer. But he accepted some dealers might abandon the Lotus marque and sell other cars.

He added Lotus Cars had been losing money for many years, and losses on the Elan had been particularly high because production volumes had been too small. With output reduced to the profitable Esprit, Lotus Cars should make a profit. The company would like to introduce a four-door model one day, if funds permitted. Despite its withdrawal from volume car production, Group Lotus will remain a leading technology development company. In the meantime Mr Palmer, supported by his owners in Detroit, will seek a buyer for the Elan production line.

BET restructuring forces profits down to £18.5m

By GEORGE SIVELL

BET, the business services conglomerate, suffered a sharp fall in pre-tax profits last year as John Clark, the new chief executive, and Robert Mackenzie, the finance director, reorganised the business and introduced more conservative accounting policies.

The total dividend for the year to end March falls from 13.25p to 6.5p on earnings which shrank from 18.5p to losses of 0.9p. But Mr Clark said of the cut: "This rebases it to a sustainable level, from which it could reasonably be expected to progress in the future while retaining the

ability to fund the growth potential of BET on shareholders' behalf."

Dealers reacted to the fall in pre-tax profits from £217 million to £18.5 million by marking the shares down 5p to 135p. Analysts were heartened by BET's new accounting policy, reduction of debt, and cashflow but disappointed by current trading.

For the immediate future Mr Clark says there is "a glimmer in the US represented by 'early warning' indicators such as hiring of temporary personnel and plant hire. But in the UK we have seen nothing that says business will be more than it was in 1991."

writing down asset values in line with a more conservative depreciation policy. A further £14.5 million was written off for charges previously deferred by the group. But £34.3 million was set against the exceptional charges.

BET managed to save money by cutting stock levels from £149 million to £78 million and reduced the amount owed by the group's debtors from £553 million to £431 million. Net capital expenditure fell to £34 million (£140 million).

Trading profit fell from £280 million to £146 million, suffering from the absence of businesses which have been sold, such as Biffa, the waste management company.

Of the group's main operating divisions textile services suffered both in the UK and America with operating profit falling to £52.8 million (£84.5 million). Cleaning services held up at £24 million.

Security services held steady at £15 million. British electronic security increased market share. But plant services dived from £63.5 million to £31.6 million. BET blamed overcapacity in rental equipment and intense competition.

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Streamlined policies: John Clarke, chief executive, thinks his reorganisation will give BET growth potential

Hamilton urges faith in Lloyd's

By OUR CITY STAFF

NEIL Hamilton, the corporate affairs minister, said there was every reason for confidence in the Lloyd's of London insurance market, expected to announce the worst overall losses in its 300-year history.

"Next week Lloyd's will have its AGM and will report a very large loss," Mr Hamilton told delegates to the World Insurance Congress in London. "None the less there is every reason for confidence in this great institution." He said confidence was vital for the market, its backers, its bankers and its policyholders. Lloyd's is expected to unveil a loss of £2 billion for 1989, its most recent complete year under its three-year accounting system.

Mr Hamilton said Lloyd's customers remained loyal to Lloyd's, the world's largest single insurance market, "because of the service it provides, its ability to tackle big exposures and to give underwriting decisions in a matter of days, not weeks."

He said a recent report by Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, showed the strength of Lloyd's solvency compared with other insurers.

"The unique service Lloyd's provides, its financial strength and the harder market now evident are the ingredients of a return to profitability at Lloyd's we all want to see," Mr Hamilton said.

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Airbus profit soars

Airbus Industrie, the European aircraft consortium, made an operating profit of \$267 million last year, up from about \$100 million in 1990.

An Airbus spokesman said Airbus had received orders for 17 aircraft worth about \$1.2 billion this year and predicted profitability for "the next few years". In January this year, Airbus said it aimed to book 145 aircraft orders this year, compared with 101 last year and 404 in 1990.

Airbus officials said this week that they would decide later in the year whether to launch the 124-seat A319 aircraft.

They said the consortium would review the marketing of the new plane in the autumn in order for a decision to be taken for the craft to enter service in 1995.

Park quits

Stephen Park is to leave Hanson, which he joined in 1981 and of which he is an alternate director and senior financial assistant to Lord Hanson, to join Sears as group finance director. John Lovinger, Sears' current finance director, has been appointed managing director of corporate development and international operations, with effect from July 1.

Joint power

Southern Electric, the distributor, is teaming up with Phillips Petroleum in an equally divided joint venture to buy and market gas. The move swells to 15 the number of competitors to British Gas, half a dozen involving regional electricity companies. Initially, it will mean bidding for gas supplies from British Gas.

Tougher trade eats into Heinz profits

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

GROSS profits of H J Heinz, the American food firm, headed by Tony O'Reilly, came off record levels last year as sales slowed and the shares edged close to their 12-month lows.

Figures released yesterday showed gross profits had dropped from \$2.5 billion to \$2.47 billion on sales down almost 1 per cent to \$6.58 billion for the year ending April 29. Without \$221 million from the sale of its Hubinger commodity busi-

ness, operating income would have dropped 15 per cent and net income would have been down 27 per cent.

Instead, operating income rose 6 per cent and net income 12 per cent. The shares, which have traded between \$48.625 and \$35.125 this year, fell 12.5 cents to \$35.25.

Mr O'Reilly, 56, said: "I am very pleased with the results for the year, which despite turbulent market conditions, both domestic and foreign, turned out as we anticipated at our stockholders' meeting last September."

The company, which plans 500 job cuts at six unspecified plants outside America, has recently denied reports that it is poised to name David Sculley, brother of John Sculley, the Apple Computer chief, John, as the food group's next chief.

Mr O'Reilly's contract does not end until 1994, at which time he is able to exercise share options that could bring him a further \$123 million, but only if the Heinz share price climbs to more than \$61.125 in the next two years.



O'Reilly: pleased

France urged to resume sell-offs

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE must restart the privatisation programme it halted in 1988, as the public sector remains too large and still places too big a burden on public finances, Edouard Balladur, the former French minister of economics, said in London yesterday.

In a speech to the French Chamber of Commerce in Piccadilly, he said that economies around the world, including those emerging from the collapsed Soviet empire, were developing privatisation. It had become a "great movement of history".

But M Balladur, who initiated the French privatisation programme when in office, said that the resumed disposal of state assets should be done in a case-by-case, pragmatic manner. In its first wave of privatisation, the French government disposed within 18 months of about half of the 65 enterprises M Balladur listed for sale in 1986. Of the privatisation proceeds totalling Fr71 billion, Fr50 billion were used to reduce the national debt, while Fr21 billion went to public enterprises.

Despite a budget deficit that met the convergence criteria for European monetary union, French public spending was still too heavy, M Balladur said. He added the need to safeguard public finances, and broaden share ownership of leading companies was unchanged.

He made clear that it would be important to attract more foreign interest in French privatisation issues. In the eighties, about 10 per cent of French privatisation shares were taken up abroad.

In Paris, Michel Sapin, the finance minister, yesterday welcomed the latest inflation figures, which showed the annual rise in consumer prices slowing in May to 3.1 per cent, the fifth monthly fall in a row. The slowdown last month was achieved despite higher doctors' charges and rising oil prices.

Wellcome Trust hints at raising share issue size

By MARTIN WALLER

THE Wellcome Trust, the charitable foundation that owns 73.5 per cent of the Wellcome pharmaceuticals group, is reserving the right to increase the size of this summer's £4 billion shares issue by as much as 25 per cent if there is high demand for the shares.

This would mean that investors applying in the issue will be expected to bid well before there is any firm indication of the number being sold, against the usual City practice.

There are already indications that the Wellcome float will be one of the most tightly priced in City memory, not least because the trust as a charity is legally bound to sell at the highest possible price. Ian Hannam, of Robert Fleming & Co, the global co-ordinator to the issue, said: "This deal will be sized to the demand that is there."

Only an indication of the number of shares for sale will be given when tender offers are invited on July 6. The trust is limited by court order to selling a maximum of 417 million shares, or about £4 billion-worth at the current price, which would reduce its holding to 25 per cent.

But that indicated number can be increased by an unspecified amount if the signals from investors are that it will be a success. Mr Hannam suggested an increase of 20 to 25 per cent would be regarded as acceptable.

Investors in a tender offer have to bid the price they are prepared to pay for the shares. If they bid too low they can expect not to receive any, but the number of shares on issue is fixed, allowing applicants to gauge the potential demand.

The Wellcome advisers have left the number of shares on offer flexible. They have put further pressure on potential investors by saying applications received shortly after the tender offer opens will receive preferential treatment, giving the market even less time to decide on the level of bids.

The global marketing ahead of the float is already well under way. Last week American institutions were targeted in presentations by John Robb, the Wellcome chief executive, and this week it is the turn of the European securities houses.

Fleming has created a sophisticated computer programme that will grade applications according to price, the time they are received and the number of shares tendered for. Investors who deliberately lighten their existing holdings before the issue, or attempt to talk down prospects for the shares in the financial press before tendering, will be strictly penalised, and there are indications that Fleming has already identified potential wrongdoers.

A proportion of the shares, perhaps 30 per cent, will be earmarked for retail investors. But the tight pricing means the issue is not seen as a natural for small shareholders. "We think we're addressing Henry, as opposed to Sid, in other words high net worth individuals," Mr Hannam said.

Wellcome's advisers are keen to increase the proportion of the company held by American shareholders. There will be a New York Stock Exchange quotation.



Robb: setting targets

Account payee gains legal weight

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CHEQUES will be safer from fraud and theft after today, when the new Cheques Act comes into force. Banks and building societies are planning to start printing the words "account payee" on all their cheques to prevent the cheques being stolen and paid into other bank accounts than those named.

The Cheques Act, which was rushed through parliament before the general election, gives legal status to the phrase "account payee". This means that cheques with "account payee" written on them can only be paid into an account which belongs to the person it is written out to.

If a bank pays an account payee cheque into anyone else's account, it will become

liable for any loss from fraud or theft. The government and the British Bankers' Association hope the change will stem the rising tide of cheque fraud.

Large numbers of cheques are being intercepted in the post and laundered through bank and building society accounts opened by thieves. The Inland Revenue has been a particularly frequent victim of these scams.

Until now "account payee" had no legal weight although it was informally recognised in the financial industry. Banks could still pay stolen cheques into the wrong accounts and would not be legally forced to offer any compensation.

To strengthen security still further most banks, including Barclays and Lloyds, have announced they will print "account payee" on all their cheques. Any customer who wants to cancel the additional safeguard can cross out the words and sign next to them.

While the banks welcome the new security measure, many small companies are worried that it will cause added problems in their payment systems.

Some companies trade under one name but hold their account in another and will find it difficult to pay in cheques under the new regime.

Companies are also complaining their branches have not understood the full implications of the Act.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Brittan tells EC banks to cut transfer fees

BANKS must cut their fees for cash transfers between European Community countries by the end of the year or face the introduction of EC laws to improve services, Sir Leon Brittan, European Commissioner said yesterday.

Cross-border transfers can cost up to 20 times more than domestic transfers in some EC states. In some cases, banks had had cheques returned by banks since the mid-1980s but done little to calm consumer groups who say the costs and lack of transparency in bank charges make a mockery of the EC plans to build a single market.

Wellman holds payout

WELLMAN, the engineering company where Cardu has built up a near 10 per cent stake, is holding the annual dividend despite a slump in profits from £2.96 million before tax to £1.05 million in the year to the end of March. An unchanged 1.4p final dividend leaves the total at 2.2p, payable from earnings of 2.4p a share, down from 6.3p. Geoffrey Iley, chairman, said the results were in line with the company's expectations. Steps have been taken to reduce overheads and staffing has fallen 17 per cent.

Defence jobs for Gwent

AN £8 million expansion programme by Northern Telecom Defence Systems, the Canadian-owned telecommunications company, will create 120 new jobs at Newport, Gwent, and safeguard 180 existing defence-related jobs, according to David Hunt, Secretary of State for Wales. Northern Telecom makes fibre optic cables to carry messages for the army and navy. Northern Telecom's customers include the Ministry of Defence and the United States defence department.

Intercare tones up

STRONG growth has continued at Intercare Group, the healthcare products distributor, which boosted pre-tax profits to £1.39 million (£452,000) in the six months to end-April. Turnover doubled to £10.8 million (£5.8 million). Earnings per share increased to 4.2p (3p) and there is an interim dividend of 0.6p (0.5p). The results include partial contributions from SAFA, a supplier of occupational health products, and Birmingham Optical Group.

Trealt advances

TREATT, the essential oils and aromatic chemicals group, lifted pre-tax profits 13 per cent to £571,000 in the six months to end-March. Turnover rose 42 per cent to £7.4 million. The interim dividend is maintained at 1p. Earnings are 3.49p (3.49p) per share. R C Trealt & Co, the principal operating subsidiary, increased sales volumes 40 per cent. About a third of the rise in turnover was exceptional, with a low margin. Costs were higher. Net profit growth was 13 per cent.

Faupel rides tough year

FAUPEL, the USM-quoted importer of Chinese textile goods for sale to wholesalers, stores and mail-order companies, increased pre-tax profits 8.1 per cent to £1.2 million in the year to the end of March. Earnings per share rose 8.3 per cent to 10.22p (9.44p). There is a maintained final dividend of 3.05p. Michael Molloy, chairman, said the year had been one of the most difficult in his memory and no clear trading pattern had yet emerged.

Welpac slides into red

WELPAC, the hardware distributor, reported a pre-tax loss of £305,000 in the year to end-January (£13,000 profit). Turnover was £11.4 million (£9.7 million). The dividend is 0.2p (nil). The company set aside £110,000 in redundancy and reorganisation costs. Shawe Lighting remains a loss-maker and interest charges were £541,000 (£332,000), although they are expected to fall "substantially" this year. Gearing fell to 44.6 per cent (126 per cent).

Renold gives warning

RENOLD, the engineering company, gave warning that orders for its chains and gears remained low, although some areas showed improvement over the depressed levels of 1991. Pre-tax losses of £3 million were suffered in the year ended March 28 (£2.5 million profit). Costs were again cut significantly. Losses were 5.6p a share (4p earnings). The company passed the interim dividend and the final is 1p (3.7p).

Tempus, page 22

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BIS urges banks to be cautious on lending policy

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BANKS in the developed world still need to retrench, and those in Western Europe, North America and Japan, in particular, need to be more cautious about lending than they were during the 1980s, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) says in its annual report, issued today.

The report, which urges caution in spite of the weakness of the world economy, coincides with the bank's annual meeting at its base in Basle, Switzerland. BIS, the central bankers' central bank, also calls for regulatory systems to be strengthened.

The report argues that the continued state of flux in the financial markets, arising from deregulation and internationalisation, gives grounds for caution. Policy misjudgments in Britain in the late 1980s have to a large part been attributed to the effects of deregulation making it almost impossible to gauge the state of the economy.

BIS notes that the process of deregulation and globalisation still has some way to go. In some cases, however, it says that changes have been made too recently for the full effects to have worked through, espe-

dially in Japan and the European Community.

In its economic outlook, the BIS says the world is climbing slowly out of the recession that has gripped it for much of the past two years, but that the recovery is taking longer than expected. It says, however, that there is little likelihood of a global depression in the next year, a scenario foreseen by some economists concerned by the twin slowdowns in Europe and Japan and the continuation of a more fragile recovery in America than had been hoped for.

Despite the disappointing picture of growth it paints, BIS sees no scope for quick fixes. The bank's report underlines the view that inflation remains too high in many countries, especially in Germany. Defeating inflation and restructuring the decrepit economies of the former Soviet bloc remain priorities to strengthen the world economic system, BIS says.

Some comfort is provided in the report concerning the severity of the slowdown. Compared with past slowdowns, the present one has been generally milder than those of the mid-1970s and early

1980s, largely because key factors, mainly inflation, have been more favourable, it says.

On property prices, BIS offers little hope of an early recovery. Property prices are likely to remain depressed in most industrialised countries. BIS notes that this provides further evidence that the recession, while slowing, has not yet ended.

Against this background, the report voices the hope that the consensus that appears to be taking shape on how best to approach economic policy issues will ultimately lead all countries towards a "stronger sense of international solidarity".

Alexandre Lamfalussy, general manager of BIS, speaking after the annual meeting, said better training and the elimination of structural rigidities had improved the working of labour markets, but that much more remained to be done before unemployment rates could fall significantly.



All in good taste: Sam Whitbread, outgoing chairman of the Whitbread brewing group, tests a pint of Anniversary Porter, a traditional style of ale produced to cele-

brate 250 years of brewing success for the company founded by his ancestor, Samuel. Mr Whitbread pulled the first pint at the St Paul's Tavern in Chiswell Street, London.

Truck sales likely to slide further

By DEREK HARRIS

WESTERN European truck sales are expected to decline 6 per cent this year, mainly because of a sharp downturn in the hitherto buoyant German market. There are, however, marginal recovery expectations for the United Kingdom market.

About 258,000 trucks are forecast to be sold this year in Western Europe against 275,000 in 1991, according to the latest sector survey from DRI, the transport consultant. Last year's total showed a 1.4 per cent decline on the previous year.

With UK truck sales badly hit last year — barely 32,000 units were sold in the main sector of 3.5 tonnes and above — 1992 might see sales of about 35,000 units. That would still leave manufacturing volumes at "paltry" levels, the survey points out.

If the UK economy gathered momentum in 1993, the annual market should lift towards 50,000 units by the middle of the decade, the survey says. This is well below the market size seen in the late 1980s.

With few signs of economic recovery in the UK, even the marginal improvement in truck sales forecast by the survey seems in some doubt. So far the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has logged falling commercial vehicle sales for 32 consecutive months up to the end of May. May sales this year were 7.7 per cent down on the same month a year ago and half those in May 1989. In the first five months of this year sales have been down 10.8 per cent compared with the same period a year ago.

DRI expects some recovery in the Spanish market this year while the rate of decline in France and Italy is expected to slow down.

The biggest swing is expected in the German market, which was the main source of growth in 1991, when demand grew strongly as the eastern half of the country expanded economically. Lower economic growth this year is hitting the German market.

Deregulation of domestic road transport in Germany is also expected to cur German demand.

□ **DRI European Forecast Report, Summer 1992:** DRI, Wimbledon Bridge House, 1 Hartfield Road, London SW19 3RU; £2,000.

HMC rises despite bad debts

By LINDSAY COOK

THE Household Mortgage Corporation more than doubled pre-tax profits in the year to end-March to £5.16 million, compared with £2.2 million in the previous year.

The improved figures were despite a rise in bad debt provisions to £4.16 million (£2.2 million). During 1991, the centralised mortgage lender bought two mortgage books totalling £400 million from Westpac and Boston Safe, the overseas lenders. These contributed to the better profits.

HMC lost some mortgages as people transferred their loans to cheaper lenders. The company, which is wholesale funded, has a standard mortgage rate of 11.45 per cent, compared to the 10.65 per cent charged by building societies. It has total assets of £2 billion and 40,000 borrowers.

Maxwell Packe, finance director, said: "In 1989-90 we recognised the early signs of the problems now faced by the mortgage market, and were therefore able to take the necessary precautions." These measures included reducing significantly the amount lent and being careful about the quality of the applications.

The lender says that 60 per cent of its arrears cases are in working arrangements whereby an agreed part of the payments are being met each month. Mr Packe said that the number of new arrears cases was not falling. "Towards the end of a recession you would expect to get an increasing number of redundancies."

Turnover is static at Vibroplant

By MARTIN WALLER

VIBROPLANT, the specialist plant hire group, has shown resilience in the face of the recession in the construction industry, with turnover in the year to end-March almost unchanged at £76.8 million. But pricing pressure and lower margins left pre-tax profits reduced from £6.19 million to £4.51 million.

A final dividend of 2.38p maintains the total at 3.60p. Jeremy Pilkington, the chairman, said he believed it prudent to expect no improvement in construction activity levels either in Britain or the United States before 1993, and the group had been positioned accordingly.

Despite depressed business levels, Vibroplant's gearing was reduced from 86 per cent to 70 per cent during the year, representing a reduction in debt of almost £9 million despite £14 million of capital investment, Mr Pilkington said.

The American economy had been promising, but not delivering, recovery for some time, he added. Pre-tax profit there fell 39 per cent to £1.24 million. Experience was very varied, with some regions showing signs of recovery while others were still in decline.

In Britain, all divisions and all regions traded profitably, but with strong geographic and product variations, while profits fell 21 per cent to £3.27 million.

Vibroplant shares were unchanged at 105p.

Leisure managers' pay beats inflation

By DEREK HARRIS

LEISURE industry managers received average salary increases of 5.5 per cent in the last 12 months, which kept them ahead of inflation, but bonuses fell.

Continued effects of recession are affecting the leisure industry from public houses and event venues to hotels and restaurants, according to a remuneration survey* covering senior managers, including chief executives. One indicator was that receiver-ships in leisure in the first quarter of this year rose more than a quarter compared with the same period last year.

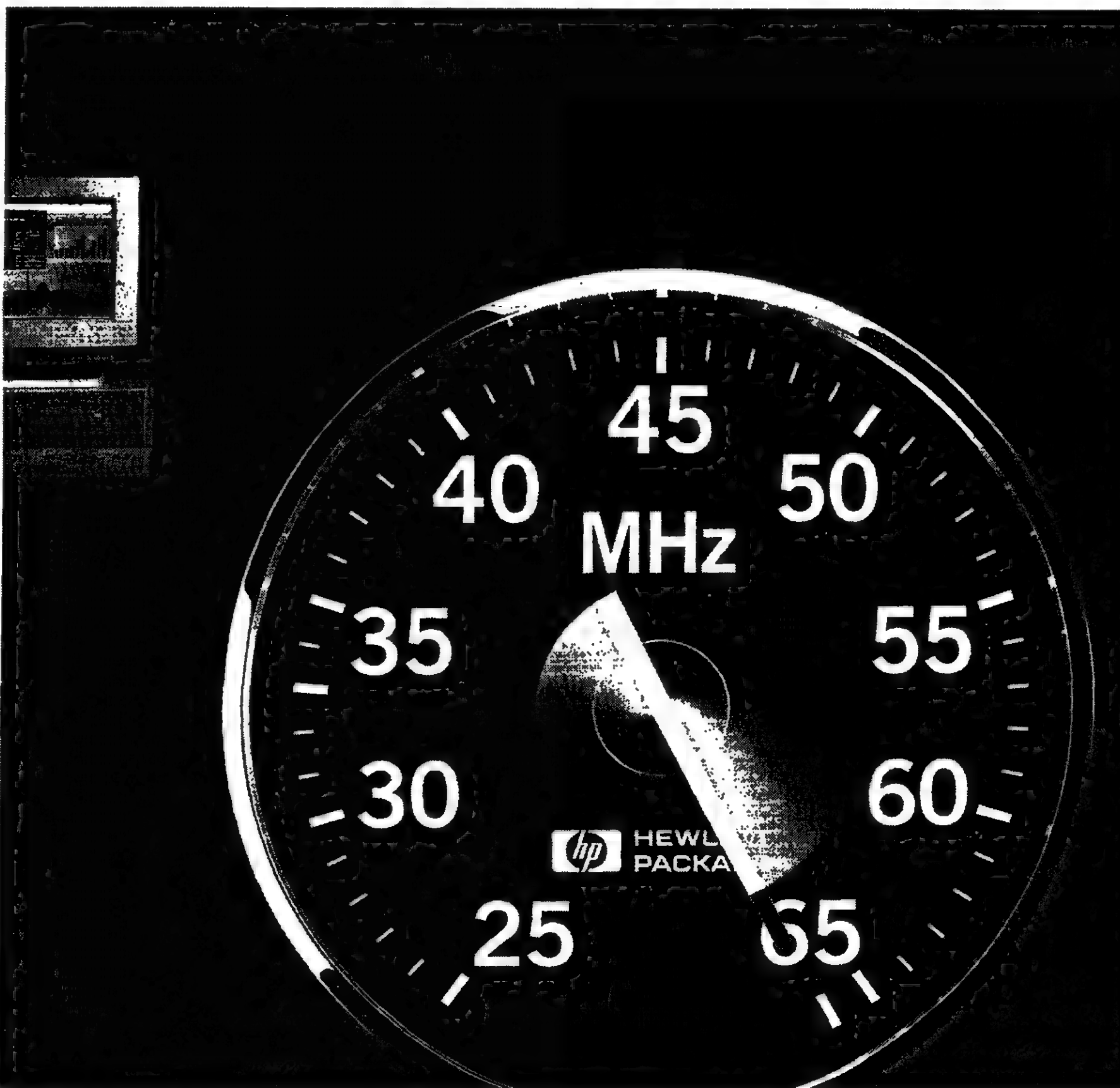
Chief executive salaries rose 6.8 per cent to an average £45,000 a year but the average bonus fell to 15 per cent

compared with 27 per cent in 1991 and 35 per cent in 1990. Average total remuneration for a chief executive or managing director in the industry was about £75,000.

Average salaries, with percentage increases, were: finance director £45,000 (5.1 per cent), personnel director £38,500 (5.2 per cent), sales director £41,000 (4.3 per cent), operations director £40,000 (5.6 per cent), sales manager £25,500 (6 per cent), general manager £25,800 (6.4 per cent), catering manager £19,000 (6.5 per cent).

*1992 Annual Remuneration Survey of the Leisure Industry, by Janet Salmon, 20 Amherst Road, Ealing, London W13 8ND; £145.

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Intelligence that bankers ignored

Gordon Brown, Labour's increasingly indiscriminate trade spokesman, has called for an in depth enquiry into whether the government knew, as long ago as 1989, that Robert Maxwell was dishonest on the basis of intelligence reports and, if so, why no action was taken. Representatives of Maxwell pensioners, who were defrauded in the tycoon's attempts to shore up his failing empire two years after the expensive 1989 purchase of Macmillan Inc, at least have a sensible, practical reason for targeting the government. It has access to taxpayers' money, so if any negligence could be laid at government's door, there might be a case for another state rescue on the scale of the Barlow Clowes affair.

No one needed intelligence reports, however, to know that Mr Maxwell had a dishonest and manipulative streak. That was made clear in journalistic investigations 20 years earlier, followed by a report by Department of Trade inspectors, who included one of the foremost accountants of the day. They concluded that Mr Maxwell was not fit to be the director of a public company. The principal reason was his inability to separate his private affairs from a public company, which had many outside shareholders, and his penchant for manipulating profits and balance sheets by complex transactions between the two.

Mr Maxwell was a driving, entrepreneurial and sometimes brilliant businessman but he was a not a man to whom large sums of other people's money could safely be entrusted. By publishing that report 20 years before the pension fraud, the government of the day did a great service. Sadly, most of the business world chose to focus on the outstanding qualities and forget the dark side. The bankers who lent more than £2 billion included many of the most respectable and powerful British, Swiss and French names. His companies employed Britain's largest firm of accountants. His deals were advised by big name merchant banks and securities firms and blue chip solicitors. His apparently legitimate share dealings were carried out through international broking firms that claim the highest standing.

Presumably they could all read. They cannot have thought that Mr Maxwell had changed, that he had thrown off the excesses of youth and learnt his lesson. Throughout the construction of his second empire, dealings between his public and private companies, the hallmark of his earlier days, were more frenetic and complex than before. They did not involve the government. The financial sector could have acted at any time simply by not doing business, but most were too busy happy to. The fees for the flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers alone totalled £17 million. The moral responsibility for the plight of Maxwell pensioners lies with the financial community.

On Sir John Cuckney's first day of raising funds on that presumption, he was met by two immediate refusals, to contribute: from the Stock Exchange, which was so happy to welcome Mr Maxwell as the director of several public companies, and from Lord Stevens, of Invesco-MIM, whose close business associations with Mr Maxwell were so indicative of his being embraced by the financial establishment. The pension funds that Mr Maxwell acquired are missing about £450 million, of which more than £200 million might be accounted for by securities held by banks and others, and whose legitimate ownership is in dispute. Since the funds' had some surpluses they do not need to recover all their losses. Regardless of the disputed stock, firms and institutions that made money with, or from, the rise of Maxwell should be volunteering eight figures sums.

John Meads puts the case in favour of privatising British Coal as a single entity rather than selling the industry piecemeal

Before the election, John Wakeham, then energy secretary, gave a welcome statement of Conservative policy: "There is a substantial UK market for coal; we aim to ensure that it is supplied with British coal, mined competitively and efficiently by an enterprising management and workforce." His ministerial successors have to translate intention into achievement.

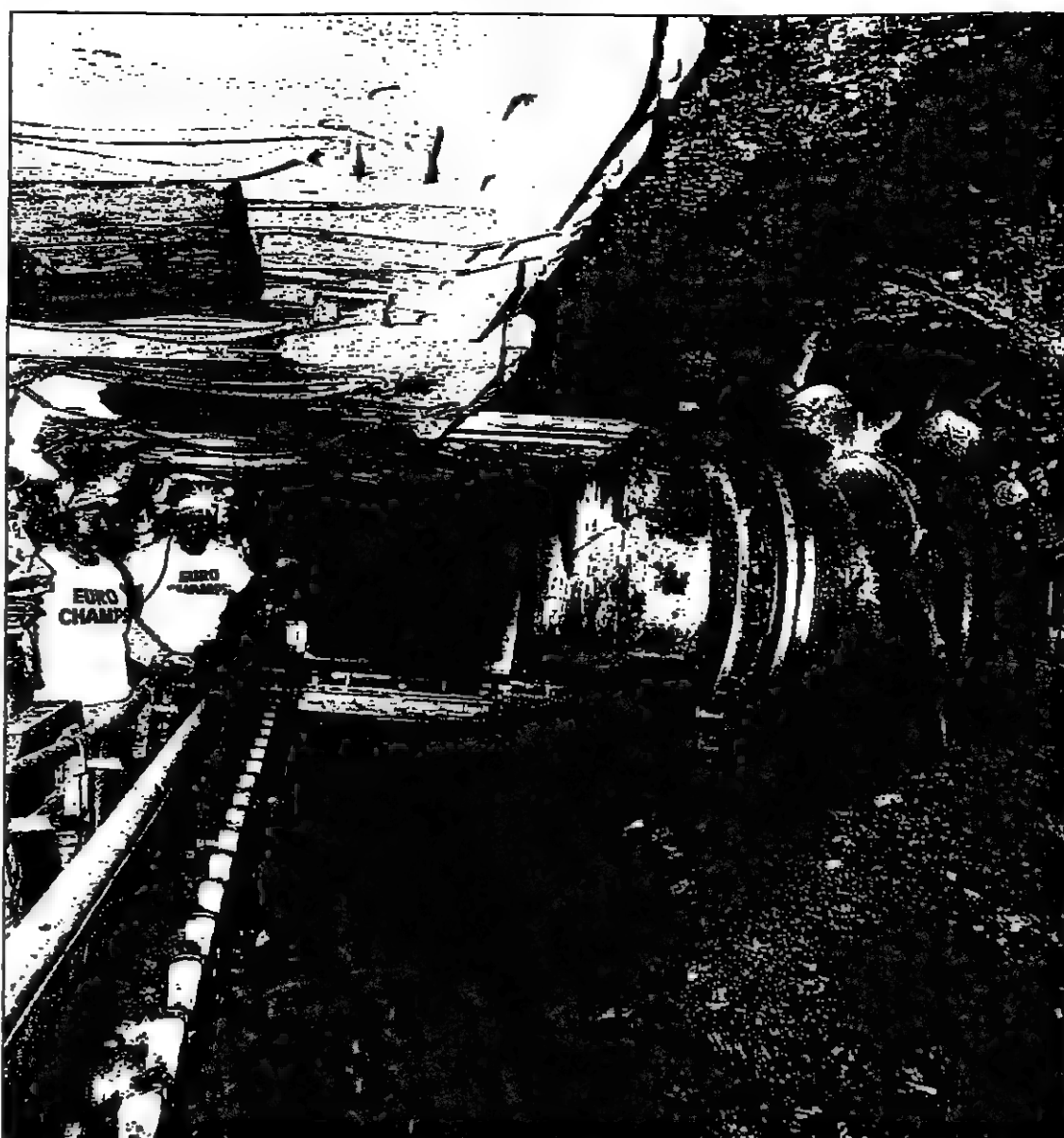
In the short term, the size of the UK coal industry will be determined by the nature of the coal supply contracts, to run from April 1993, between British Coal and the big electricity generators. Much has been spoken and written on the government's essential role in co-ordinating the interests of British Coal, of the generators, of the regional electricity companies, and its own interests, within those negotiations. But in the longer term the financial viability and sustainability of the industry will depend largely on the structure in which it is privatised.

To those of us who have had to experience the harsh reality of British Coal's unceasing retrenchment over recent years, the idea that our business suffers from a lack of competition, as canvassed by some critics, is laughable. The break-up of the industry they recommend would not achieve the government's desire for "the largest economic coal industry which the market can support". Indeed, it would achieve the opposite.

In the first place, the international steam-coal market comprises many producers, distributed widely around the globe. Internationally traded steam coal constitutes a growing proportion of total world production. Worldwide productive capacity is sufficiently large to enable a speedy and flexible response to a change of demand, certainly on the scale of British electricity generators' likely future demand for coal.

In the absence of any artificial restraint on imports, international coal prices will constrain coal prices in Britain, whatever the share of the British market held by a single producer. A unitary British Coal will be a commodity producer acting within a world market, and will be a price-taker rather than a price-setter. British Steel would be a much closer analogy than British Gas.

Competition from imported coal will be a far more effective price constraint than competition between two or more British deep-mine producers. The cost structure of deep mining in British geological conditions would prevent a company maintaining a big margin of capacity above the level of output justified by its term contracts with its customers.



Safety first: mining is still inherently hazardous and rigorous training standards are vital

Competition between two or more deep-mine companies would be largely ineffective, due to their limited ability to respond to changes in the volume of market demand.

Regardless of their number, British coal producers will also be faced by the generators' duopoly power. Transport costs effectively prevent large-scale exports. Non-electricity markets now take less than a fifth of sales. By contrast, electricity generators can buy fuel in general, and coal in particular, from many sources. Thus potential exists for a buyer intent on rapid profit maximisation to drive prices down towards short-run marginal costs, cutting, or eliminating, the reward for capital. This would allow little or no investment in replacement coal production capacity, eventually killing the industry.

That threat could be rendered less immediate by the term contracts for coal supplies, but even a coal industry privatised in unitary form might not be able to withstand such pressure without help from the competition authorities. The greater the number of producers, the weaker each would be in the face of exploitation by the buying power of the two generators.

On the other hand, given the competitive restraint from imported coal and other fuels, a unitary British Coal would have little scope to charge excessive prices. Nor is it likely to have sufficient financial strength to engage in predatory pricing to drive out or deter new British producers, particularly in the open-pit sector.

In any case, the economic behaviour of two coal producers would not necessarily be different from that of a single producer. Experience of the generators' duopoly suggests that if a company's principal aim is at least to match the performance of its rival, management has a strong incentive to avoid the risk of comparative failure by pursuing the same strategy as its rival — hence the calls for action by the electricity regulator.

The general incentive to efficiency, arising from competition from imported coal, new entrants to UK production, and other fuels, would apply equally whether British Coal were privatised as a whole or split up. Everyone in British Coal already knows that the industry is fighting for its very existence. Indeed, division

could diminish efficiency. Deep mining is an inherently high-risk business in Britain due to disturbed geology and well-worked coal seams. The greater the number of production units within a single business entity, the greater the opportunity to spread the risk of an unexpected interruption of production. The smaller the total size of the industry, the greater is this argument for retaining a unitary structure.

The perception that a company faced a higher level of risk could also lead to reduced access to capital and therefore higher finance costs, deterring development or diversification.

The argument that a division of British Coal would create greater scope for diversity of mining methods, technology, working practices, or management style, is also double edged. A company with only a few production units may in practice be less willing to risk failure by experimenting at one colliery than would a company with twice as many. Likewise, inter-colliery rivalry remains possible within a unitary corporate structure, if local management is given sufficient autonomy and if both management and workforce derive

personal financial reward from the performance of their own colliery.

Whatever the structure of the privatised coal industry, local management autonomy and employee participation are likely to be key factors in continuing the drive towards more efficiency. Coal mining is not an industry in which best results will be achieved by heavy-handed direct supervision. This is why the British Association of Colliery Managers, like the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, wants a management/employee buyout of British Coal, and has initiated talks with interested parties. We do not see the UDM as competitors: all BC employees should be in this together.

All these economic considerations are important. Safety is equally vital and should weigh large in the government's decision as to structure. Safety standards cannot be enforced solely by legislation and external inspection. Corporate culture and management organisation are important factors. Privatisation in parts might well disrupt British Coal's existing "safety culture". It would certainly be easier to maintain safety standards with a single system of technical instructions than with two systems. Adoption of best practice, and establishment of safe methods involving new technology, need exchange of ideas and experiences between collieries. But these matters have an impact on operational efficiency as well as safety, and could well be regarded as commercially confidential between rivals.

Previous experience of the industry in private ownerships shows that this is a real concern. For example, the survivor of one colliery would not be permitted to divulge to his counterparts at neighbouring pits the details to his colliery's underground workings. Lack of such knowledge has, in the past, led to accidental break-in to old workings, causing loss of life from the water or gas they contained.

Mining is an inherently hazardous occupation and training standards must be specified in detail and rigorously enforced in order to ensure safe working practices. Most managers regard good training as the key to establishing and keeping high standards of safety. Regardless of the number of companies within the industry, workers must be transferable between collieries; this is particularly true for specialists but applies to all workmen when a colliery closes. Safe transfer requires consistent training standards, more easily achieved in a unitary structure.

On the key economic grounds of viability, efficiency and sustainability there is much to be gained by privatising the mining activities of British Coal as a single entity. Dividing the business will not, in practice, induce greater competition, but would run the risk of jeopardising British Coal's safety record which is the envy of miners around the world.

John Meads is general secretary of the British Association of Colliery Managers. Tomorrow, Professor Colin Robinson argues the case for competition in the energy industries

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

New chapter at St Ives

IF ANYONE was being groomed to take over from Bob Gavron, the Harpo Marx look-alike who founded and runs St Ives, the UK's largest printer capitalised at £280 million, it was Miles Emley, the former Rothschild banker who helped float St Ives in 1985 and who yesterday quit as head of corporate finance at UBS Phillips & Drew to become St Ives' deputy chairman. Gavron, 61, chairman of St Ives, says he wants "to be able to retire" at 65 and "not be hanging around like a spare in my nineties". Accordingly, Emley, 43, will "shadow" Gavron from October as chairman-designate on a salary Gavron admits to be well over £100,000 and probably about double Gavron's own £75,000 a year, with share options as an extra. A life-long merchant banker, Emley nevertheless has strong publishing interests and admits to being "a voracious reader". He first met Gavron when Rothschild advised Octopus, where Gavron was then a director, and was on the board of feminist press Virago for two years after it chose Rothschild for its management buyout on Gavron's recommendation.

ADVERTISEMENT in the classified section of The Sydney Morning Herald: "Boomerang manufacturer — excellent returns."

To the bar

THERE is life after a career in the City. To prove the point, two ex-bankers have just come full circle and are emerging with new careers in an entirely different sphere. Brian Dye, until 1989 managing director



of Goldman Sachs government securities division in London — and, as such, the man responsible for handling the firm's trading and supervisory relationship with the Bank of England — has just been offered a tenancy in the barristers chambers at 4 Essex Court, in London's Temple. So, too, has John Snider, 33, a one-time corporate financier with Hill Samuel in Johannesburg, and more recently employed in the corporate finance department of South African bank Investec. Their arrival will bring the number of tenants at 4 Essex Court to 41 and is a sign of their acceptance, on a professional basis, by their new-found colleagues. It also means that 4 Essex Court, hitherto known for its work in commercial and international law, might have an edge over some of its rivals when it comes to acting for clients in the financial services sector. "I had qualified as a lawyer some time ago and after ten years in the City I felt I had achieved all the ambitions I had in the financial world," says Dye, 38, who has spent the past three years studying for his bar exams and doing pupillage. "There are not a lot of barristers who

have had experience of the City and I felt I could offer something extra."

Headhunting

FOLLOWING the recent resignations of several of its top people in London, Enskilda, the Swedish securities house, has been recruiting for its European operations. Philip Best of Fauchier is to join its Paris team with Anton Ogier, of Kleinwort Benson, while James Stedler is moving to London from Julius Bar in Zurich to focus on Swiss research. According to Tom Hughes-Hallett, responsible for securities, Enskilda, in a recent survey, was rated one of the two most widely consulted continental research houses and now has, he says, two teams of headhunters searching for additional new talent. The drive follows a decision to refocus Enskilda's European business and transfer most of its French and German research efforts to Paris and Frankfurt.

Mistaken knight

JOHN Wriglesworth, building society analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, is honoured in housing circles since he is regarded as something of a guru, but is he really worthy of a knighthood? In its report on the estate agency conference at the Lancaster Hotel, The Negotiator, the estate agency trade newsletter, referred to "Sir John" Wriglesworth and demoted Sir Gordon Borrie, a fellow speaker, to humble "Mr Borrie". Wriglesworth's suitability for honours seems, thus far, to have escaped John Major, but if he can talk up the housing market sufficiently, perhaps that will be rectified.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Lloyd's should reconsider fund levy

From Mr R. Maxwell
Sir, A week has gone by in which to digest the recent announcement by Lloyd's of its intention to levy an average of £20,000 per name from its membership to boost its central fund.

As a committed member of Lloyd's, I welcome the decision to raise this levy by way of "increased losses" or more optimistically "reduced profits" over the next three years, rather than the much-rumoured "cash demand" being levied immediately on the membership. Whilst unhappy at having to pay this levy, I hope that this sensible move by the Lloyd's Council will defuse some of the scaremongering tactics being adopted by observers in the financial market place.

However, as an administrator of my late brother's estate (my brother having been a

member from 1986 until his untimely death last year), I think the manner in which this levy is being imposed is grossly unfair. Why should the beneficiaries of my late brother's estate, namely his widow and two young children, have to pay this posthumous levy, when they receive no benefit from it whatsoever? They were never party to my brother's short-lived decision to become a member of Lloyd's and why should they care if Lloyd's as an institution survives or not?

With my brother's estate having to meet his recent and future Lloyd's losses fairly and squarely, his family are suffering enough financial hardship. Why inflict this additional financial penalty on them? Lloyd's should think again. Yours faithfully
RONNIE MAXWELL
5 Rothsey Mews
Edinburgh

Macho talk at BET

From Mr M. Lewis-Nieto

Sir, I was surprised to read the inept methods applied by an American to reorganise BET. The old three Rs — redundancy, reductions, restrictions — are the last thing they need.

Macho talk from the chief executive about "downsizing" will sound like unemployment for the people who work for him. When he reduced his head office staff from 300 to 60 the three Rs would have left the building with them. Or does he really believe that the lesson for those who remain is commitment, confidence and creativity? Isn't it more likely to be "look after number one" and "cover your back"?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LEWIS-NIETO
Director,
Resource Development Ltd,
Long Lodge,
267-269 Kingston Road,
Merton Park, SW19.

Build on know-how

From Mr W. Knight

Sir, Since Midland Bank corner shops are not to be absorbed into Black Horse financial hypermarkets, one must hope that their management will build on its new Far East know-how and cater for the needs of exporters and those who depend generally on international business for a living.

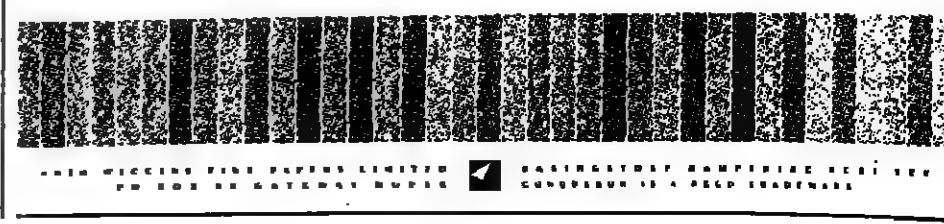
In its drive to squeeze profits out of domestic consumers and pull away from international banking, the house of the Black Horse has been noticeably inattentive to the needs of international businessmen.

If Hongkong Bank can care for this market gap, Britain's trade and its banking system will be stronger.
Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM KNIGHT,
23 St James's Square,
SW1.

Nice letters.
Shame about
the paper.

Isn't it
time
you switched
to a better
paper?

conqueror



[illegible][illegible]

Portfolio

CASEWORKER REPORT # 029489272

357	250	Ocean Group	256	...	9	14.7	1.2	10.1
358	260	Ocean Wilson	55	...	...	...	1.2	12.1
359	375	P & O Ship	662	...	2	30.5	3.8	15.6
411	385	P & O Ship	111	...	...	...	6.6	...
415	387	Powerl Duthay	385	...	3	22.6	4.2	...
117	65	Seacoma	117	...	...	4.2	4.8	1.8
21	15	Seashell Res.	16	...	...	...	...	9.5
39	41	TTP Europe	48	...	3	...	5.1	9.0
59	52	TTP	68	...	...	...	4.7	8.1
141	536	Tribal & Britain	617	...	...	...	2.6	26.1
478	295	Triploch	426	...	...	13.6	4.3	16.3
307	243	Transport Dev	259	...	6	9.5	4.9	6.4
120	65	Turnbull Scott	115	...	2	...	...	...



EUROPEAN CHEMICALS

Giants seek formula for recovery

Recession has cost the chemical industry jobs and profits, but, as David Rudnick reports, some areas are still thriving

Europe's chemical industry is going through one of its stickiest patches since the second world war as it wrestles with the hydra of recession, over-capacity and ever-rising environmental costs. The European Chemical Industry Federation (Cefic) regards the recession, with its implications for excess capacity, as the most serious challenge facing the industry.

"We are, however, at the healing phase of the cycle," Jean-Marie Devos, Cefic's general secretary, says. The federation is forecasting growth of 1.8 per cent for the European chemical industry this year, almost double last year's figure. However, this mild overall recovery conceals wide variations in the fortunes of different sectors of the industry. Bulk, or commodity, chemicals, plastics and petrochemicals are among the laggards. Consumer chemicals, above all pharmaceuticals, are in much better shape.

Europe's biggest chemical company, Hoechst, is one of many pursuing a rationalisation programme, particularly in Germany: jobs are being phased out and plants closed. Production of phosphorus and detergent phosphates is to cease. The second largest company, BASF, is cutting 9,500 jobs—more than 7 per cent of the workforce—this year through attrition and early retirement.

BASF's profits in the first quarter of this year plummeted by as much as 40 per cent. Jürgen Strube, the board chairman, foresees no quick revival around the corner. Nor do most chemical manufacturers, given the continuing slowdown and depression in key markets like Germany and the United States.

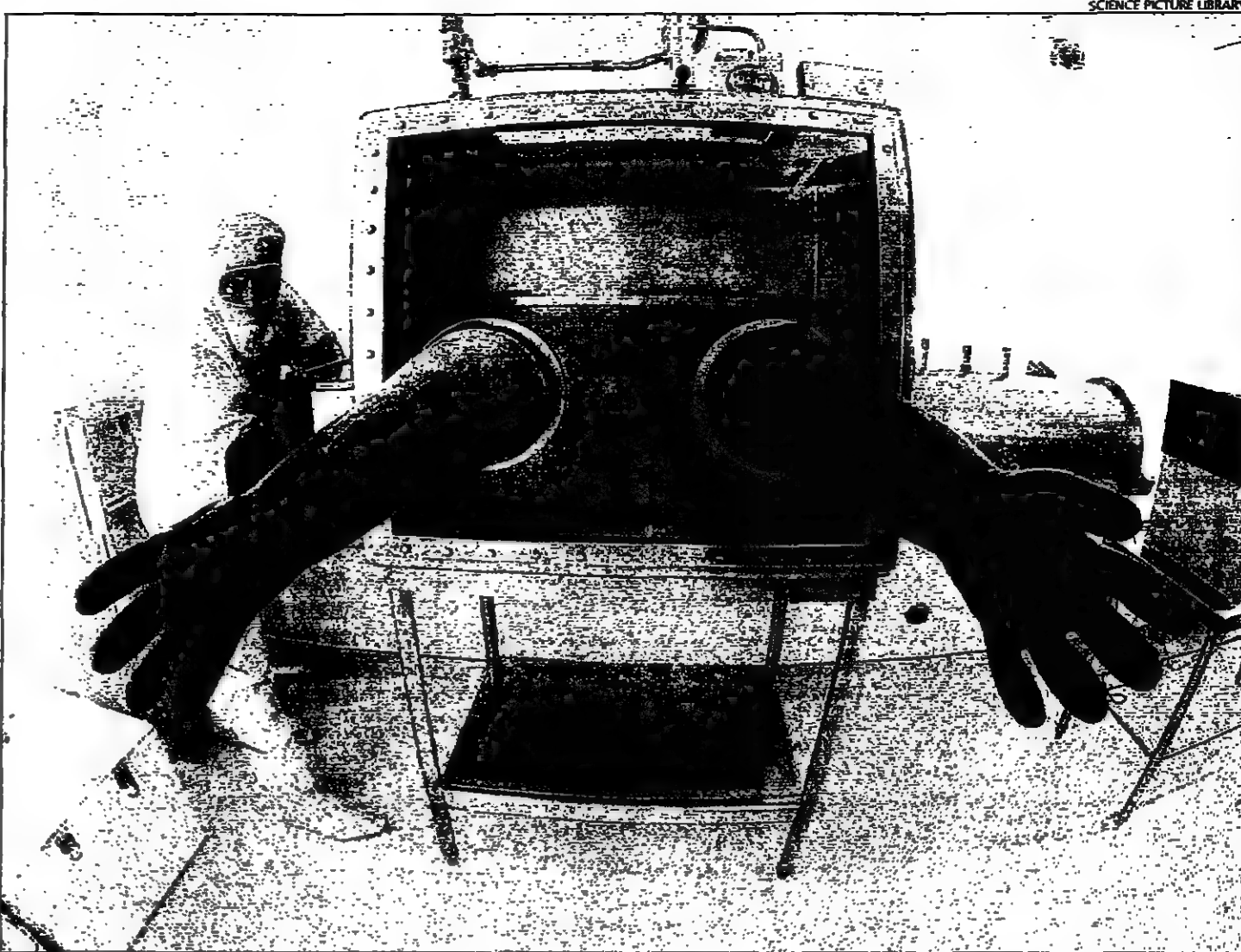
Bayer, third of the big three, is also cutting costs and manpower, but its greater exposure to health care, pharmaceuticals and other specialty chemicals is protecting it from the worst effects of the industry's notoriously erratic business cycle. ICI also sees more hope in consumer-related products. Sir Denys Henderson, the chairman, says: "The recession is still with us to a considerable extent, but a number of our businesses, particularly serving the housing, consumer goods and textile markets in the United States, the United Kingdom and parts of continental Europe, are detecting faint signs of recovery."

Ciba-Geigy historically has a strong speciality, consumer-product bias. It says agro-chemicals and bio-related parts of the business have stood it in good stead in weathering the recessionary storm, though it is still looking critically at its product portfolio to make it "leaner and meaner".

Cefic emphasises that technological progress, as well as the recession, is contributing to cost-cutting and productivity gains. These are essential in any case if the industry is to adapt to the competitive pressures likely in the single European market next year. The move to a single currency, in particular, will bring added emphasis to cost competitiveness.

Structural changes are likely to take place over the next few years, with the bigger players concentrating on their core strengths. Mergers and acquisitions may have to await more expansive times. One of the dampeners to company mergers and takeovers is the growing uncertainty about many companies' environmental credentials. Substantial hidden costs may be incurred if products or processes are affected by environmental legislation in the pipeline. One often-expressed concern is that the European industry should not be disadvantaged by costly environmental regulations that do not bear equally on its competitors overseas.

One danger that Mr Devos sees in the single market is "adopting texts that allow too much flexibility, and are therefore open to abuse by interest groups like environmental lobbies". He is suspicious of subsidiarity, and doubts the wisdom of leaving EC member states and, worse, regions free to adopt their own environmental measures. The environmental difficulties of the former communist countries of eastern and central Europe are rapidly coming to the fore. Cefic has initiated the Environment Advisory Service for Technical Transfer (EASTT), a project which enables member companies to provide voluntary assistance to their east European counterparts on how to clean up their act. Cefic would like EC financial support for these initiatives, which



Welcome to the laboratory: a positive-pressure, nitrogen-filled glovebox is used to avoid contamination from the surrounding air.

are seen as a more positive way of serving the environment than the hated carbon-energy tax.

As part of its self-regulatory approach to environmental planning, Cefic has adopted yet another acronym: Veep, the Voluntary Energy Efficiency Programme. Energy costs have been halved already over the past 20 years, it is claimed. Now the aim is to reduce them through Veep by a further 15 per cent by 2000.

Chemicals are very much a global business. Free access to export markets worldwide must therefore be a cardinal principle of the industry's trade policy. Lack of

progress in the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is focusing attention on the dangers of protectionism and the threat that exclusive trading blocks can pose to the system of multilateral trade.

Trade in intellectual property rights is also a serious concern. Extending GATT rules to cover items like trademarks, patents and copyrights is a priority in the chemical industry.

Mr Devos says: "We have established a common position on these issues with our American and Japanese colleagues in the International Council of Chemical Association."

We all want GATT to set equal standards of protection for intellectual property worldwide. You still can't get chemicals and pharmaceuticals patented in many parts of the world because of inadequate legal protection. Chemical processes may be protected, but not products."

Looming on the horizon are new competitors, such as South Korea in petrochemicals, and behind it Taiwan and the other countries in the Far East. Nearer home, some believe that the expansion of Europe's state-owned oil companies into chemicals is contributing to over-capacity.

The continuing existence of several national regulatory settings different standards for drug safety adds significantly to marketing costs. So meetings have been held in Brussels, on the initiative of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, to get the regulatory authorities of the EC, Japan and the United States to adopt consistent requirements.

The industry has longer-term worries, however. One arises from the governments' pressure on general practitioners to cut back drug prescriptions in the interests of public economy. According to the ABPI, this has reduced the uptake of new medicines in recent years, depriving companies of funds to finance research and development. As Europe's population steadily ages, however, expenditure on health care may be expected to climb, providing the industry with a favourable backdrop for some time to come.

Medicines alleviate profit ills

In most of Europe's chemical industry, pharmaceuticals are an oasis of profitability in an otherwise desolate landscape. This is because demand for drugs and medicines is largely recession-proof. David Rudnick writes. People will always be ill, as a spokesman for the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) wryly observed.

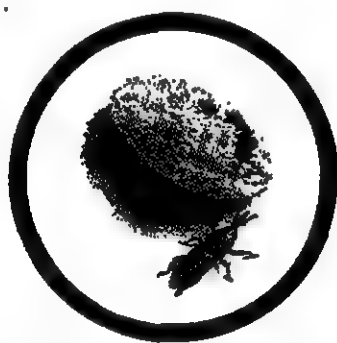
Thus Bayer, one of the big three German chemical groups, registered profits last year higher than Hoechst and BASF, its two rivals, because of its greater exposure to the pharmaceutical market. While Bayer's overall pre-tax profits dropped by 5 per cent, its pharmaceutical sector delivered profits 11 per cent up on the previous year.

Other companies, like ICI and Rhône-Poulenc, are also finding health products a tonic to their balance sheet.

The move towards a single European market is rapidly harmonising trading conditions in pharmaceuticals. By January 1, 1993, advertising standards will be set consistently across the European Community. By 1994 an EC directive will ensure that patients buying medicines, whether on prescription or over the counter, receive an information leaflet clearly stating the product's manufacturer and its ingredients, and warning of any possible side-effects.

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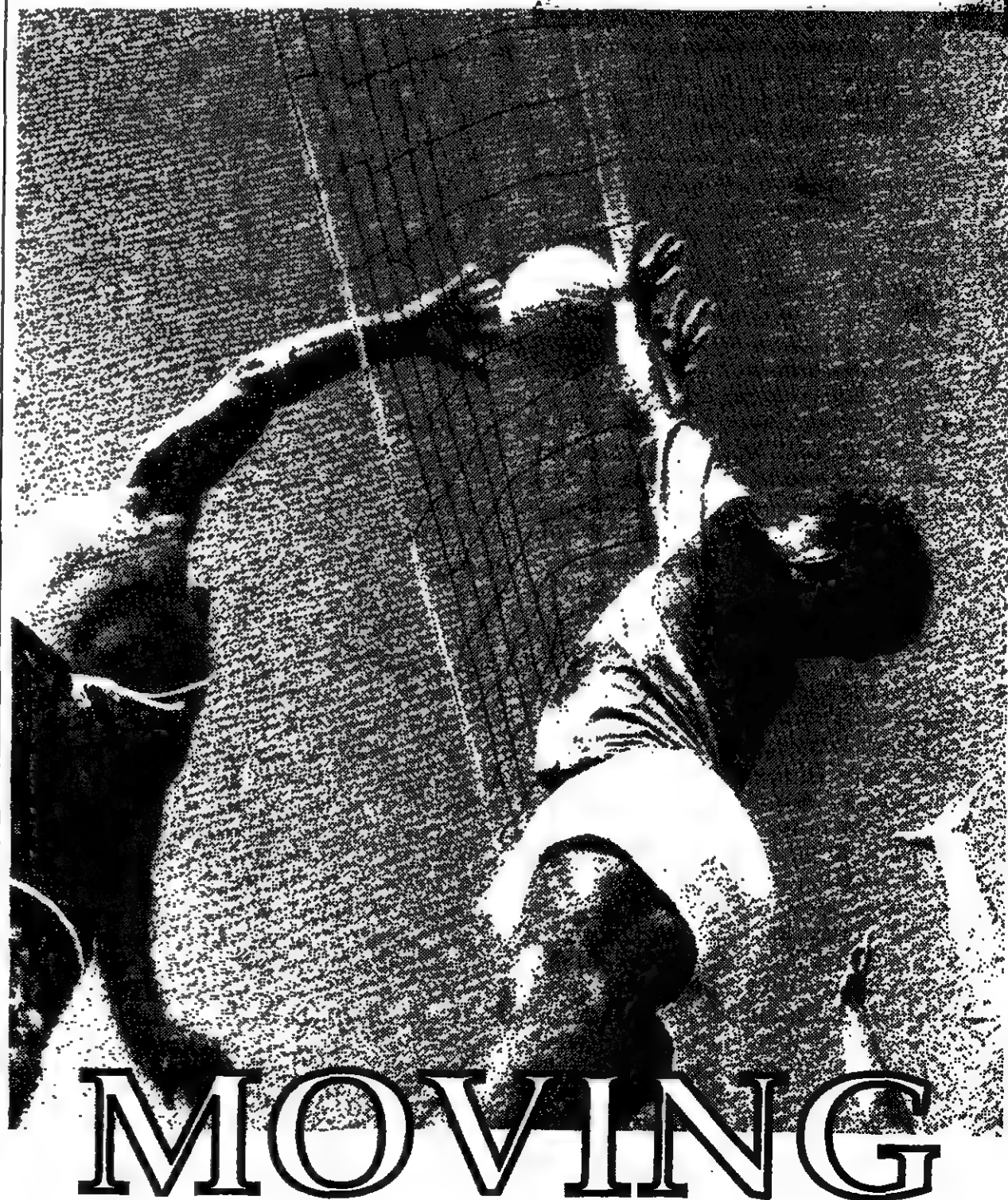
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مركزنا من الاموال

Taken to the cleaners

Environmental legislation threatens to take away Europe's competitive edge

The chemical industry is still cast in the role of environmental villain. Continuing evidence of urban and industrial blight, the hole in the ozone layer and disasters like those at Seveso and Bhopal have badly tarnished its image for some time to come. And by keeping environmental issues at the top of the political agenda, the Earth Summit at Rio has once again put the chemical industry in the dock. Stringent environmental legislation in Germany was instrumental earlier this month in bringing directors of Desowag, a Düsseldorf-based subsidiary of Bayer, literally into the dock charged with poisoning thousands of DIY enthusiasts with a wood preservative. It is Germany's biggest environmental pollution trial ever and symbolises the exceptional strength of environmentalism in Europe's biggest chemical-manufacturing country. Industry leaders there are angry at what they see as unreasonably strict environmental controls, which, they say, are undermining their international competitiveness. Wolfgang Hilger, chairman of Hoechst, was bitterly critical of Germany's tough legislation a few months ago as he announced falling profits. He said it disadvantaged German-based companies without producing any discernible environmental benefit. Like many of his competitors, Herr Hilger complains that the cost of further

improvements is far too high, and could end up virtually driving the chemical industry out of Germany altogether.

Environmental standards are being tightened up in Britain. A system of integrated pollution control (IPC) is being adopted which seeks the most practical way of protecting all aspects of the environment, using the best available technology to reduce waste, generation and control the effect of emissions.

According to Chris Hampson, a director of ICI, who serves on the European Chemical Industry Federation's environment committee, IPC is "a sophisticated approach which aims to avoid protecting one part of the environment, like water, at the expense of another, like air. Solutions being sought are those which protect the environment as a whole." Mr Hampson predicts that when IPC is completely phased in by 1994, Britain will have one of the strictest environmental control systems in Europe.

British industry feels, though,

that it is being taken to the cleaners in more senses than one. Its Chemical Industries Association estimates that, despite the recession, spending on environment-related capital projects will have more than doubled between 1991 and 1994, biting into ordinary capital expenditure. ICI reports that the proportion of its capital

spending swallowed by environmental costs has risen from 10 to 15 per cent over the past few years, and that it will rise to nearer 20 per cent by 2000.

"The public is paying for this," says Mr Hampson, "as polluters generally pass on the cost in higher prices. Costs have to be reflected somewhere." Companies that can find the most cost-effective way of reducing the pollution they produce, he concludes, will gain a distinct competitive advantage.

Both the British and the Germans are worried that measures to protect the physical environment could irretrievably pollute the business environment if excessive costs drive away investment and place

nationally-based companies at a competitive disadvantage.

The European Commission is mindful of the need to standardise environment regulations to avoid these market distortions, and so the next few years are likely to see the issue increasingly handled at EC rather than national level. Many in the industry are worried that even if uniformity of standards is achieved, enforcement will vary from one member state to another.

In response to concerns about global warming, the commission has come up with proposals to limit carbon dioxide emissions and enhance energy efficiency. The most controversial measure is an energy tax aimed at stabilising the EC's carbon dioxide emissions at their 1990 level by 2000. The key feature is a tax of \$3 on a barrel of oil to be imposed in 1993, rising in stages to \$10 a barrel by 2000.

The industry is predictably unimpressed. "Our record on energy efficiency is fine," a spokesman says. "We already require less than half as much energy to produce a tonne of goods as we did 20 years ago." ICI says some of its plants in Germany, run as a joint venture with the Italian concern Enichem, have recently cut fuel consumption by 40 per cent.

Mr Hampson thinks the tax scheme is unlikely to go through "because it needs parity from the US and Japan, and Washington has already said no." He adds that



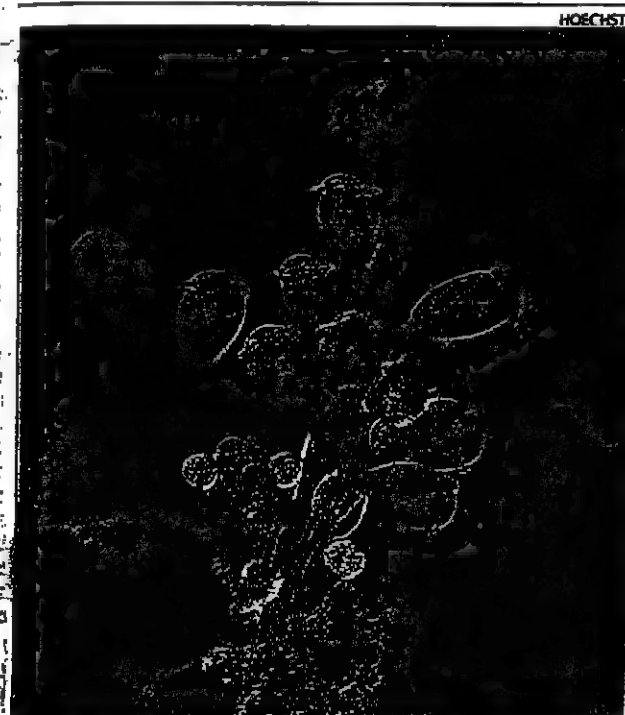
Something in the air: an environmental chemist conducts analyses of atmospheric pollution

Europe accounts for only 13 per cent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, so the tax would not contribute greatly to solving the world's climatic difficulties.

Cleaning up effluents and emissions from old plants not designed with pollution controls in mind and designing new, environmentally-benign plants and processes is a heavy burden on companies' research and development budget, but it will not last forever, Mr Hampson believes. "Now that we know what standards are expected of us, we are converting, catching

up and becoming more pollution-free. So in the longer term, as pollution abates so too will our capital expenditure on the environment."

DAVID RUDNICK



Tiny helpers: bacteria are used to purify waste water

A dip in the gene pool

Biotechnology is one of the fastest growing areas in the chemical-pharmaceutical industry. Companies are racing to be the first to win part of the food market with genetically engineered plants and crops. David Rudnick writes.

Scientists are also inserting human genes into plants, turning them into miniature factories capable of producing useful human proteins. They have grown tobacco plants that produce antibodies; potatoes that make a human blood protein used in surgery; and rape plants that make a painkiller normally produced in the brain.

The nearest commercial application, however, is genetic engineering in plant biology, where genes are transferred between different species to improve crop yields. The thrust for the research comes from a desire to produce plants more resistant to insect pests, fungi and herbicides.

Pesticides are not only a financial drain but also an environmental hazard. Their use can be avoided, however, if plants can be armed with their own biological defences by implanting foreign genes that produce proteins toxic to insect larvae.

The potential gains are enormous, though much of the research is necessarily long-term. But companies such as Monsanto in America, and Plant Genetic Systems in Belgium, are adapting the methods of a little natural genetic engineer called *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* to kill insect larvae that prey on crops, using tobacco and tomatoes as models.

ICI's seeds division, in partnership with researchers at Nottingham University, has altered the tomato's genetic structure to develop tomatoes that ripen without going soft and pulpy, by suppressing the enzyme that induces softening during the ripening process.

Even more extravagant juggling with nature is being done in Scotland, where a genetically engineered sheep called Tracy is busy producing a human protein, alpha-1 antitrypsin, or AAT, in milk. Most people produce their own AAT, but about one in 2,000 is deficient, and in some cases this can cause liver failure, cystic fibrosis or the lung disease, emphysema. Sufferers can be injected

with AAT, but its extreme scarcity makes this enormously expensive. It is hoped that Tracy and her descendants will ease the shortage by increasing, and maybe even replacing, the present limited supply of AAT, which up to now has been produced by a laborious process of extraction from human blood.

Bayer paid around £10 million for exclusive rights to Tracy's lucrative, AAT-rich milk. It is conducting lengthy clinical trials and has submitted her AAT for approval by the health authorities.

But however careful the biotechnicians are, doubts remain about the ethics of genetic engineering. Tracy was programmed to produce AAT by the injection of human genetic material into a fertilised sheep ovum.

Dr Peter Doyle, who chairs the European Chemical Industry Federation's special advisory group on biotechnology (SEGB), understands the unease evoked by genetic manipulation, but he answers it positively. "Nature has been very generous in providing us the genetic material, but it isn't always in the place we want it. Biotechnology has given us the opportunity to move genetic material where we most need it."

Dr Doyle, who directs research at ICI, is pleased that the European Community, while recognising biotechnology as a key area for economic development, especially in food and health care, has also set up an ethics committee to examine areas of public concern. Like many others in the industry, however, he is concerned that the European Commission's regulatory regime is failing to encourage investment in biotechnology.

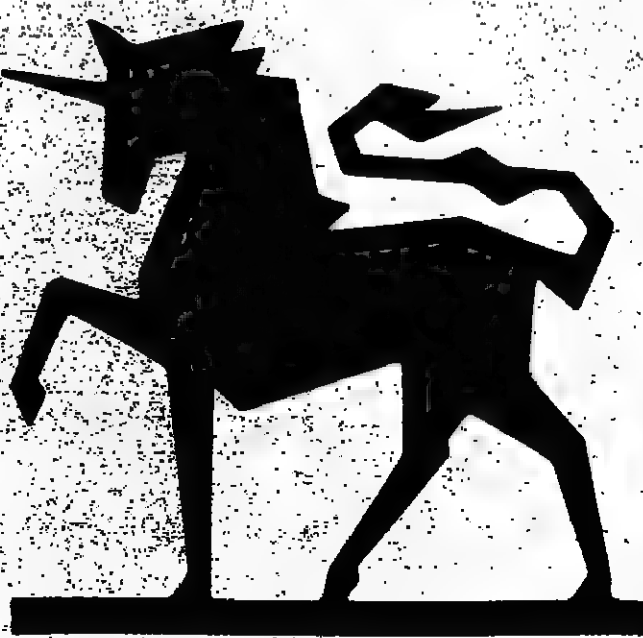
EC policy may be moving towards more balance in satisfying the needs of the industry as well as public concern, but Dr Doyle strongly believes more progress is needed if Europe is to remain internationally competitive.

He believes that the United States has the balance right, and that is why BASF has set up a biotechnology research facility there rather than in Europe to avoid the obstacles caused by delay and uncertainty. For similar reasons, Hoechst has decided to transfer a manufacturing plant for Factor 13, vital for haemophilia, to Japan.

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Chemical companies are some of the largest in Europe, but the pattern of success and failure varies from nation to nation and sector by sector

Continental divide

UNITED KINGDOM

Wobbling cycle

The chemical industry in Britain is the third largest in Europe in terms of sales, coming after Germany and France, *David Rudnick writes*. It is also the third largest manufacturing industry within the country, accounting for 11 per cent of total output and 6 per cent of employment. As a manufacturing export earner it is unrivalled, with a visible trade surplus of about £2 billion a year. Roughly 50 per cent of British chemical sales are exported, half within the European Community.

The widespread use of chemicals makes the industry particularly susceptible to cyclical ups and downs. Its outlets are legion: agriculture, food manufacturing and processing, textiles, paper and printing, plastics, cars, rubber. Throughout the 1980s output of chemicals grew by 2.5 per cent a year, while gross domestic product rose by only 2.2 per cent and manufacturing by 1.2 per cent.

Between 1985 and 1990 chemicals accounted for 15 per cent of new investment spending in manufacturing. But that robust performance has predictably wilted under the impact of the recession. Its present three-year investment programme, covering 1992-94, is the lowest since 1984-86, and the association sees no significant upturn before next year.

Sir Denis Henderson, chairman of ICI, says "1992 so far shows little sign of improvement, and indeed, the commodity cycle may not begin to recover until 1993."

ICI's share of the United Kingdom market has fallen to 10 per cent in recent years as it has concentrated its sales effort abroad and reduced its exposure to the more cyclical commodity sector, which has traditionally formed a large part of its UK business.

ICI is concentrating on building up its presence in the overseas markets where its sales penetration is most marked. Its strategy is to have a permanent seat at the top table in the three major markets: Europe, North America, and the Asia-Pacific region.

With that in mind, it intends to sell its fibres business to Dupont of the United States, and buy Dupont's acrylics business in exchange. The deal offers synergy to both companies in optimising their respective strengths, but because of its size and complexity, it is under review by

the European Commission. Rising costs are a headache for the whole industry. Chemicals are energy-intensive, the largest industrial consumer of natural gas, petroleum products and electricity, the price of which has rocketed recently. "We're all in favour of the marketplace and privatisation," says John Cox, the industry association's director, "but this year tariffs have risen by as much as 30 per cent."

This is a constant worry, since the industry is still in the process of generating its own energy, and the investment needed to achieve that will take two or three years.

To trim costs, the industry is shedding manpower at 3 per cent a year. The association estimates that employment has fallen by 20,000 to 310,000 since 1989, and that wage settlements are at, or



Tariff worries: John Cox

even below, the inflation level. The industry is understandably worried about its adverse environmental image. The association accepts that "the reputation of the chemical industry is not good. We must win back respect... The public needs to know that all reasonable steps are being taken to reduce risks in health and safety."

GERMANY

Sisterly concern

Germany's three giant chemical concerns, Hoechst, BASF and Bayer, already struggling to compete with new worldwide competition, have been anxiously monitoring the world environment conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. They are waiting to see if new restrictions will emerge that will limit their hopes of a quick recovery from a recent series of bad results.

Not all that long ago the "three sisters" confidently dominated world markets, provided secure employment and guaranteed good dividends. However, the good times ended in 1989. Since then there has been a down-

turn which has been costly in both jobs and dividends. Last year, Bayer's profits were down 22 per cent on 1989, Hoechst's 38 per cent and BASF's 52 per cent. All three are now busy cutting costs and staff.

Bayer managed to hold last year's dividends at 1990 levels, but the other two cut them by 20 per cent. This year is looking as gloomy as the last. The rising price of raw materials, weak demand and price competition from the developing world have all sapped the strength of the German industry.

These factors have emerged just when there is an urgent need for investment to maintain the companies' position in world markets.

The cost of environmental protection is crucial. Between them, the three companies have to pay around DM300 million (£103.4 million) this year in sewage, emissions and disposal taxes. Hoechst estimates that environmental protection is responsible for one fifth of its production costs. Last year the company spent DM2.12 billion (£731 million) on it, and it expects the figure to grow by another DM1.5 billion (£517 million) by 1996.

In the longer term, Hoechst believes that environmentally friendly production will increasingly be a good sales point against goods turned out cheaply in developing countries. Becoming environmentally friendly is a slow and expensive process, however. Development of new sites in western Germany is subject to constant delay from planning procedures. The need to clean up the heavily polluted environment in eastern Germany means that investment there is even more expensive and can be risky.

Treuhand, the government agency privatising the old communist combines, is having only limited success in the chemical sector, and only about 100,000 of the 330,000 employed in the industry in the east before unification are likely to keep their jobs.

Bayer is spending DM500 million (£172 million) in cleaning up part of the Bitterfeld region, which had the unenviable reputation of being the most polluted area in the former East Germany. The company hopes to sell polymers, industrial chemicals and consumer products in east European markets.

On the other hand, BASF burnt its fingers when it spent DM500 million (£172 million) on cleaning up a synthetic plant in Brandenburg only to find that Soviet and east European demand had dried up.

Overall BASF has suffered most from cheap competition. The company lost DM345 million (£119 million) last year

on cassette-tape sales because of cheap imitations.

Bayer has been the most successful, thanks largely to its pharmaceutical sector. Four products are responsible for most of the profits: Cipro antibiotics, Adalat pills for hypertension, Alka-Seltzer and aspirin. Executives in their own industry could be among their best customers.

SWITZERLAND

Export success

Switzerland's big three chemical companies, all based in Basle, have little to complain about, *Alan McGregor writes*. Despite the depressed world economy, their earnings were well up for 1991: Roche's earnings rose 56 per cent to SF1.5 billion (£556 million), Ciba-Geigy's were up by 24 per cent to SF1.28 billion (£470 million) and Sandoz's rose by 15 per cent to SF1 billion (£372 million).

The biggest increases in exports were to the United States, South America and Africa. Pharmaceuticals made up 45 per cent, with a growth rate about three times that of other sectors. Agro-chemicals also performed well.

Swiss chemical companies already have a strong presence in key European Community markets, and they have been vocal supporters of Switzerland's becoming a full member of the EC.

Analysts attribute the satisfactory overall picture largely to the restructuring of the past three years and to the decision to make heavy investments in biotechnology. For this, however, all the big three appear to prefer research facilities outside Switzerland.

Ciba-Geigy has opted for a site at Huningue, across the frontier in Alsace. It plans to build a genetic engineering research facility there at a cost of SF120 million (£41 million). The decision was motivated by environmentalist

EUROPE'S TOP TEN

	Sales turnover (£ bn)
1 Hoechst	31.1
2 BASF	30.6
3 Bayer	28.0
4 ICI	23.5
5 Rhône-Poulenc	18.2
6 Ciba-Geigy	15.5
7 Shell	11.2
8 Elf Aquitaine	n/a
9 Akzo	9.9
10 Solvay	0.1

Source: Chemical Insight



Heart of the matter: an analyst examines new cardiovascular drugs in isolated cardiac muscle fibres

FRANCE

Panel beater

Rhône-Poulenc, France's state-controlled chemicals giant, is surviving the slump better than most, *Barbara Casassus writes*. Revenues and profits are up, debt is down, and the company is pointing in the direction of Jean-René Fourtou, its chairman, was seeking when he embarked on a drive for acquisitions in the 1980s.

This week M Fourtou comes to the end of his present three-year term, his second, together with his colleagues in other state-owned enterprises, and the business community is holding its breath to see which of them will be reappointed.

M Fourtou should stand a strong chance of receiving a third term, if *L'Expansion*, the economic magazine, is any guide. In April a panel of independent experts, commis-

sioned by the magazine, gave Rhône-Poulenc top marks among 14 nationalised companies for profitability, productivity, investment and level of debt. The panel applauded the company for comparing well with its American and German competitors, and for being "one of the best examples of intelligent behaviour by the state shareholder."

Reports were not always as glowing. When M Fourtou embarked on his spending policy after taking over in 1986, the sceptics questioned its wisdom. The programme doubled group turnover, turned the company into one of Europe's five leading chemicals manufacturers and established a solid presence in the United States through the \$2 billion purchase of a majority stake in Rorer, the American pharmaceuticals maker, in 1990. It also, however, built up a FF34 billion (£3.5 billion) debt.

Since then, the company has placed a moratorium on takeovers, and is working to cut costs and sell off non-strategic businesses in order to

concentrate on its core activities in pharmaceuticals, agro-chemicals, fibres and polymers, specialty chemicals and some intermediates. The aim is to trim the debt-to-equity ratio, which was more than 90 per cent at its peak, to 50 per cent by 1993.

The sceptics have been confounded. Group net profit rose by 3.2 per cent in 1991, and by 78.4 per cent in the first quarter of this year. The American operation is paying its way, and Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, the subsidiary into which all the company's pharmaceuticals interests have been merged, is expected to increase its net profit by 30 per cent this year.

ITALY

Family affair

The Italian chemical industry is split between the public and private sectors, and has been the field for running battles between the two, *John Earle writes*.

The latest upset is in the state sector, over an ethylene pipeline built for Enichem Anic, part of the ENI group, between Ravenna and Ferrara. It cost twice as much as was authorised, with the result that the Anic chairman has lost his job and the case is being investigated by the public prosecutor.

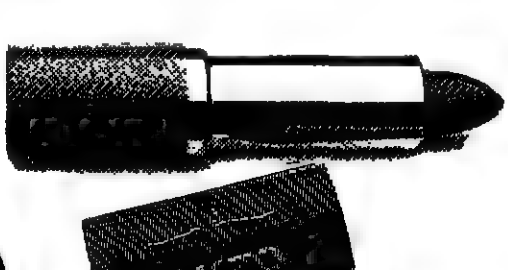
Enichem was until recently called Enimont, and was an equal partnership between the public sector (ENI) and the private (Montedison), designed to provide a powerful force on home and foreign markets. The partnership proved unworkable, however, as Raul Gardini, of Montedison, strove for control. In November 1990 ENI used government money to buy out Montedison's share.

This was followed in June last year by another split, when Signor Gardini was ejected by the Ferruzzi family from the family-controlled Ferruzzi-Montedison chemical and food group.

Montedison has put its chemical operations into a sub-holding company, Montecatini. The name revives memories of the 1960s, when Edison, an electrical utility, took over Montecatini, a big chemical company. The resultant Montedison proved a giant of clay, and for years was the object of often bitter contention between leaders of private and state industry.

Today both Enichem and Montedison-Montecatini are still feeling the international recession, particularly Enichem with its heavier productive activities. The third important name in the industry is Sna-BPD, part of the Fiat group, which is important in chemical fibres as well as defence and space, and is diversifying more into sectors such as bio-engineering and health equipment.

Most multinationals, including ICI and Glaxo of Britain, have manufacturing operations in Italy, particularly in fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals.



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Bank drama: worried BCCI staff with Keith Vaz, the MP who is helping employees and creditors. The crash, however, has meant lucrative work for lawyers

Big challenges, big fees

Edward Fennell looks at the role of the corporate lawyers in the Maxwell and BCCI disputes

The sight of lawyers taking fat fees from financial disasters such as the fall of Olympia & York, the Maxwell empire and BCCI does little to win popularity for the legal profession. In those cases where fraud has been committed, the profession has stood by only to be richly rewarded for clearing up the mess.

Corporate lawyers are, predictably, sensitive to accusations of being negligent, let alone complicit. If abuses have taken place, in response they argue that without their efforts and skills the public as well as the business community would be far worse off.

Moreover, the risks are considerable. To come out of such a case badly could ruin a reputation for a generation. Gordon Stewart, the insolvency partner at Allen & Overy involved with the Maxwell administration, said: "A case like this is like walking a tightrope — it is OK so long as you do not look down. Only a few firms have the resources and confidence to succeed."

How successful any of the firms involved will be remains to be seen. There was disappointment last week at Simmons & Simmons, for example. BCCI creditors had rejected the proposed £1.7 billion compensation deal that the firm had helped to negotiate worldwide.

Coordinating the responses from lawyers operating across a variety of jurisdictions had tested key partners' legal and organisational capabilities. Reputations can be made and broken on these cases and winning such work gives lawyers the chance to prove their mettle at the highest level.

Typically, such dramas erupt out of the blue. BCCI descended on Simmons &

Simmons in the middle of the holiday period last year.

Many partners were away, or about to depart. For years the firm had acted for the private office of the ruler of Abu Dhabi and one of its key partners responsible for links with the country was en route to the Middle East when the scandal broke. After a day of crowded, anxious meetings he flew direct back to London to plunge into action on his client's behalf.

For Mr Stewart, the Maxwell case was unexpected. His first warning of what might be coming was a late-night telephone call in December from an Arthur Andersen partner, John Talbot, the accountant appointed administrator of the various Maxwell private companies. Mr Stewart recalls: "I was at home when John Talbot telephoned me. I had known John for some time but it came as a complete surprise to be invited to get involved in the Maxwell case. Like everybody else I had no idea just how serious matters were."

Previous co-operation with Mr Talbot on important insolvency cases had provided a solid base for the selection of Mr Stewart to take on the work. In these large administration cases lawyers and accountants must work hand in hand. They need good personal and professional relationships with trust on both sides. In many cases decisions have

to be taken at short notice. There is no room for the accountants to have doubts about their legal advisers' capabilities.

The main stumbling block at the start is the danger of the law firm being "conflicted out", or made ineligible because of conflicts of interest. The substance of Mr Talbot's call to Mr Stewart was: "If Maxwell goes can you take it on? Are you free to act?"

Unhesitatingly, Mr Stewart said he wanted to do it. The issue of conflicts, however, took longer to settle. The wide-ranging activities of a firm such as Allen & Overy could easily have meant that it was excluded from the case. For the same reason, Simmons & Simmons was careful not to rule itself out by taking on work from other clients.

In the early days of the affair, strict internal disciplines were imposed by Jerry Walters, one of the partners, to ensure that that did not happen. Once the work was started, resources had to be marshalled and the people secured. About 60 lawyers have been involved in both the BCCI and the Maxwell cases. Other facilities and administrative systems had to be put in place, security systems installed, special offices allocated, and rigorous checks made on confidentiality.

In the BCCI case Simmons & Simmons has, in effect, established an office in Abu Dhabi and from there and London negotiations are conducted around the clock. As the globe turns, so matters are regularly sent from one time zone to the next.

For the leading partners the demands are great, not least in obtaining enough sleep to keep going. Mr Stewart and his colleagues worked almost non-stop for the first few days, snatching a few hours' sleep here and there.

Coordinating and keeping a team of lawyers informed is a substantial undertaking. The read-in time for new solicitors becoming involved in BCCI is now reckoned to be three weeks and everybody needs to be kept abreast of developments legally and in the media. For example, both firms have introduced special cuttings services to ensure that when partners arrive at work the day's press coverage is on their desks.

All the key personnel at both Allen & Overy and Simmons & Simmons have been equipped with mobile telephones, and Mr Stewart and his team also carry pagers. There are some points of difference, however, on logistics. Whereas Simmons & Simmons has gone for electronic mail as the best means of in-office communication, Allen & Overy still believes people need to see the original pieces of paper or photocopies.

Attitudes towards travel also differ. The Simmons & Simmons solicitors will go to where the action is. Some of its lawyers have lived for days in aeroplanes. The Allen & Overy approach has been to restrict travel to the bare minimum, for reasons of economy. Both

firms, however, agree that normal life just stops when such a large piece of work drops on them and that a toll is taken on home and family life. Half a dozen babies have been born to key lawyers in the past nine months or so, conceived, of course, before the project started, and the fathers have been granted only one day's leave to welcome the child.

None the less, as among soldiers cast into battle, the pressure brings its own excitement. "Fundamentally this is the sort of work you come into the City to do," Mr Walters says. "If you do not like the hours or you cannot stand the strain, then you should not be doing it."

The teams accept they are unlikely to see anything comparable again in corporate law. Just how well they have done, and whether the results justify those fees, will increasingly become a matter of intense public scrutiny.

Ward appeal proves the case for reform

THE Court of Appeal recently quashed the conviction of Judith Ward for the M62 coach bombing carried out by the IRA in 1974. Its judgment illuminates the agenda for reform of the criminal justice system.

Miss Ward spent more than 18 years in prison because of three main factors: the prosecution's failure to disclose material evidence, the weight given to unreliable confession evidence, and the partisan performance of the scientific witnesses called by the Crown. Similar factors have been responsible for the other miscarriages of justice recently considered by the court.

The court criticised the prosecution for concealing information supporting Miss Ward's defence at the 1974 trial. The three judges stated, unequivocally, the duty on all concerned with the prosecution to disclose any material that might even arguably be relevant to the defendant's guilt or innocence. If the Crown considers there are public interest reasons for not disclosing the material, this issue should be put to the court for a decision.

Because of the public interest in the acquittal of the innocent, non-disclosure of relevant material in a criminal case will very rarely, if ever, be justified by public interest immunity. Indeed, when the Lord Chancellor, Lord Kilmer, made a statement on Crown privilege in the House of Lords in 1956, he said it would not be claimed where documents "are relevant to the defence in criminal proceedings".

Disclosure to the defence of material that is not used by the prosecution during a criminal trial was the subject of guidelines issued by the Attorney-General in December 1981. Those guidelines are inadequate. They wrongly suggest that it is for the prosecution to decide in its own interest whether to refuse to disclose material for public policy reasons.

There is an urgent need for a revised set of guidelines or, preferably, a practice direction from the Court of Appeal or legislative reform, building on the Ward judgment and setting out in more detail the obligations on the prosecution.

Part of the evidence relied on by the prosecution at Miss Ward's trial consisted of confessions she made when she was mentally disturbed. As the US Supreme Court observed in 1966, the privilege against self-incrimination has roots that "go back into ancient times". The court noted that the 12th-century Talmudic scholar Maimonides understood the Old Testament as stating "the divine decree" that "no man is to be declared guilty on his own admission".

Maimonides explained that this was to prevent depressed or deluded persons from

being punished for crimes that they claimed to have committed but for which they were not responsible. There was, other Talmudic scholars explained, too great a danger that reliance on a confession detracted from other evidence and inhibited objective judgment. So, when a young Amalekite soldier confessed to David that he had killed King Saul, David hastily had the soldier put to death, despite the extenuating circumstances. The Talmud was also concerned that to permit reliance on confession evidence would encourage the state to use improper means to make a case against a suspected wrongdoer.

English law provides some restrictions on the use of confession evidence. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and common law prohibit the use of a confession by an accused person if it was obtained by "oppression of the person who made it". If it was obtained in consequence of anything said or done likely "to render unreliable any confession which might be made", or if its use in the proceedings would be unfair.

The Ward case, like the other recent miscarriages of justice appeals, suggests that the law should go further and require that juries be given a strong warning about the dangers of relying on confession evidence because of the risk that it may be inaccurate, for any number of reasons.

It is fundamental to English criminal procedure that counsel for the prosecution is not employed to secure a conviction. His or her function is to assist the judge and jury by putting those points that can properly be made, thereby helping to ensure that a fair trial takes place. The ethics of the prosecutor have developed since Attorney-General Coke, prosecuting Sir Walter Raleigh for high treason in 1603, told him: "I will prove you the notorious traitor that ever came to the bar... thou art a monster."

Unfortunately, as the Ward case revealed, prosecution experts sometimes misunderstand their role, believing they are paid to win the case, rather than to assist the court. There is a real need for an independent forensic science service, maintaining professional objectivity, whose assistance and advice would be available to both prosecution and defence.

Mr Justice Frankfurter wrote for the US Supreme Court in 1943: "The history of liberty has largely been the history of observance of procedural safeguards." The lesson of the Ward case is that when procedural safeguards are ignored, innocent defendants can lose their liberty for large parts of their lives.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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The £3.5m enquiry

RUMBLINGS about late payments and over-billing have erupted in disaster for a Sussex law firm. Durnford Ford is being investigated by the Law Society over allegations that £3.5 million cannot be accounted for. Martin Allen, of Brighton solicitors Donne Milham & Haddock, has been brought in by the Solicitors' Indemnity Fund to conduct the investigation after more than 50 complaints to the society.

Graham Ford, Durnford Ford's administrative partner, resigned two days before the investigation began. He told the local paper: "I resigned because of a difficulty which arose in one of our systems operated by my department."

Mr Allen says that possibly up to £3.5 million has been withdrawn from estates and client accounts without authorisation. The allegations will fuel the debate opened by the society as it tries to find a way to curb mounting losses in the profession.

Perhaps tightening the rules on solicitors' ability to hold clients' money should top the agenda.

Thinner Chance
CLIFFORD CHANCE has made eight solicitors from its property department redundant along with 20 administrative staff. The City firm says that although certain

FORCED TO LIVE AN IMMORTAL LIFE

sectors of the property market have held up, there is insufficient work to support the 100 or more solicitors who work in that department. The eight solicitors have been given five months to find other jobs.

The firm says the administrative lay-offs are necessitated by its move to new offices in Little Britain this year, which will allow it to bring all its lawyers under one roof, removing the need for some administrative functions.

"Forced to live an immortal life"

Live for ever
MY THANKS to the magazine of the Institute of Legal Executives for the following entertaining extracts from letters to the pensions office: "I am forwarding my marriage certificate and two children, one of which is a mistake as you see."

ing, is now dead." "Unless I get my husband's money I shall be forced to live an immortal life."

Rights call

THE plight of beneficiaries who are not executors was highlighted in the report of Michael Barnes, the Legal Services Ombudsman, last week. Mr Barnes has had complaints from beneficiaries where the administration of the estate has dragged on for several years and the beneficiaries become concerned about solicitors' mounting costs. If they are not executors, they cannot require solicitors to apply for a remuneration certificate, as a way of testing whether the bill is fair. The reason is that they are not regarded as clients. Mr Barnes has asked the Law Society to extend the challenge procedure.

As for the Bar, he urges a move towards a system that is more concerned with complaints handling and not just a disciplinary system. At present, complainants have no possibility of compensation and little redress. "They have the feeling they are minor players in the profession's internal disciplinary procedures," he says, should consider compensation awards.

solicitors were poor communication about the progress of a case, or the availability of legal aid; delays; lack of information on likely costs; failure to reply to letters and calls; and disregarding instructions. Mr Barnes received 1,248 new cases to examine and upheld the complaint in one in three.

No injury

THE row over electing officers at the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) has been settled as only lawyers know how. The association, under John Melville Williams, QC, had to declare its 1992-3 election void because vice-president Simon Walton, a partner with the trade union lawyers Robin Thompson, had sent a memo to the 35 members of his firm, all APIL members. The vote was supposed to be by secret ballot but he wrote: "I shall be grateful if members will send me copies of their completed ballot papers." The memo also "suggested" how people should vote.

At the recent annual meeting these goings-on were coyly described by Mr Williams as "problems in the electoral process". Mr Walton faced calls to resign. Now it seems all is resolved. Mr Walton is not to stand for any position in the new election and his firm has offered to pay the costs of holding it. This offer was, of course, made on the basis that it was not construed as an acceptance of fault. Perish the thought.

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A late return to the Bar

The Office of Fair Trading's director general is reviving a law career — after 36 years. He briefs Hugh Dehn

Sir Gordon Borrie, the outgoing Director General of Fair Trading, is to return to the Bar to practise as a barrister after a 36-year break. Aged 61, the scourge of unscrupulous car dealers, estate agents and timeshare operators now wants to flex his muscles before the bench.

Sir Gordon readily admits that he is taking a risk. He left the profession in 1957 to pursue an academic career and ended up as professor of law at Birmingham University before becoming head of the Office of Fair Trading, a post he held for almost 17 years.

"I was not a successful barrister," he recalls. "There was not any work. Robin Day, for example, left the Bar in the 1950s because there was so little work. I suppose if I had the patience, which I have not,

I could have stayed on and got work. But I just hated going in every day and twiddling my thumbs. I thought, 'I cannot go on doing this'."

He left the OFT last Friday and starts work at 4-5 Gray's Inn Square, a highly respected commercial chambers in The Temple, on July 1.

Why is he going back? "I want to build on the experience I have both as an academic and as Director of Fair Trading," he says. "I do not want to be too set in my ways."

It seems inconceivable, though, that Sir Gordon will come a cropper. Although he insists he is "not a rich man", his salary at the OFT was \$84,250 a year and he leaves with a pension.

He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1986 but describes it as being made an "artificial rather than a real silk". He adds: "It was not for being in practice and getting the right number of signatures from judges saying 'He has been good in court' but

because someone in the Lord Chancellor's department said, 'This is a chap in an important office which has a legal dimension and he is the author of a book on contempt of court, and so on'."

Big businesses are likely to seek him out simply because he knows his way around the corridors of power. However, this may mean that he has to turn down work.

"There has to be a self-denying ordinance," he explains. "I believe that I have a reputation for integrity and obviously it would not do to take a case as a barrister where people would say, and could say, perhaps quite properly, that I have inside knowledge of this or that I am dealing with it from inside government."

"So I am going to have to be quite careful that allegations of that sort cannot be made," he says. "I have deliberately not joined chambers that specialise exclusively, in let's say, competition law."

His successor, Sir Bryan Carsberg, who headed Ofsted, the body that watches the telecommunications industry on behalf of consumers, took over at the OFT yesterday. But it was Sir Gordon's decision to move on — he is the only key public office holder to have been in place before and after Mrs Thatcher's premiership.

At the OFT, the media branded him a trouble-maker, but he prefers to describe the duties of the post as "to be a sceptic and to be suspicious. Nobody suggested to me that sending the car industry, or the credit card industry or the beer industry to the Monopolies Commission was trouble-making. We send them only if there is a very good case."

Sir Gordon, who stood twice as an unsuccessful parliamentary candidate for Labour in the 1950s and now says he is



Sir Gordon: "I was not a successful barrister — there was no work at the time"

apolitical, considers his battle against the City in the mid-1980s to have been his biggest victory at the OFT.

"Without us, there would not have been Big Bang," he says. "We started the whole thing by litigation: our reasons were that the City was anti-competitive and inefficient. If

it had not happened, the London Stock Exchange would be a dinosaur unable to compete with New York and Tokyo."

His biggest failure, he concedes, is not to have got the law tightened on price-fixing cartels. The government introduced a white paper in 1989,

but it was dropped through lack of parliamentary time. Sir Gordon has been married to Dorene, a Canadian, for 32 years, and has no children. He will continue to commute between his two homes, one in Worcestershire and the other conveniently in the Temple.

Saving the royal bacon when beans are spilt

Should more remedies be devised to protect the privacy of marriage?



Prince: no power in case?

There is plenty of legal authority to support the lawyers' suggestion, reported in *The Times* last week, that an application by the Prince of Wales or another member of the royal family to restrain publication of the contents of *Diana: Her True Story* by Andrew Morton would be unlikely to succeed. It may be worthwhile to explore whether there is any scope in existing law to prevent publication of confidential information.

Legal tradition has it that a duty of confidentiality depends on three things. First, the information to be suppressed must have been communicated by a confider to a confidant. Second, unless the secret is a product of the plaintiff's own labour, such as a trade secret, the relationship between confider and confidant must be of a nature to justify imposing an obligation of confidentiality on the confidant. And third, the information itself must be of sufficient significance to justify legal intervention.

Let us assume the third condition is satisfied. There is still a problem: first, it appears that the information published by Mr Morton may have been information passed in confidence by a confider (the princess) to a confidant (Morton's informant).

On a traditional view, this would not be enough to create a duty because of the second condition, which insists that confider and confidant must stand in a special relationship.

Such a relationship may include doctor and patient, lawyer and client, priest and penitent, and, as in the celebrated case of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, husband and wife. There the judge awarded an injunction, emphasising that the common law had a historical function of protecting the integrity of the marriage relation.

Marriages would be weakened if spouses were infected with the suspicion that marital confidences could be disclosed in the event of breakdown.

The purpose of imposing the obligation of confidentiality on the confidant then was to protect society's revered institutions from collapse, rather than to protect confi-

dences *per se*. On this view of the authorities, the Prince of Wales is powerless to prevent publication of the book for the simple reason that it contains no secrets confided by him to his wife.

There have, however, been a number of cases in recent years which lend support to the view that if the Princess wanted, she herself could prevent publication of information which she had confided to a confidant.

The most compelling authority for this is a case in 1988 in which the *Daily Mail* published information about a lesbian affair allegedly entered into by the plaintiff which she had confided to a friend, the *Mail's* informant.

The judge, relying on authorities not strictly in point,

It seems clear therefore, that a good deal of heavyweight judicial opinion is in favour of a development that will protect those whose private lives are most liable to suffer scrutiny by the gossip hunters and paparazzi.

If the development is sustained, how the judges could distinguish between those everyday breaches of confidence which we all, in our private schools for scandal, are wont to commit and those which so enrage our emotions, as in this latest example of baring the royals, is anyone's guess.

WILLIAM WILSON
The author is a lecturer in law at Brunel University

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Law Report June 16 1992 House of Lords

No right of silence after charge in Serious Fraud Office inquiries

Regina v Director of the Serious Fraud Office, Ex parte Smith

Before Lord Templeman, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Ackner, Lord Lowy and Lord Mustill [Speeches June 11].

The Director of the Serious Fraud Office was entitled to continue to question a person under investigation by him pursuant to the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1987 after he had been charged with an offence and he was not entitled to the right of silence.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the Director of the Serious Fraud Office from the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Nolan and Mr Justice Potts) (The Times November 13, 1991; [1992] 1 All ER 730, which had granted Mr Wallace Duncan Smith, on his motion for judicial review of a notice served on him by the director under section 2 of the 1987 Act, a declaration to the effect that before being asked questions after charge, a fresh caution should be administered stating that he was not obliged to answer and that the fact of such caution would be a reasonable cause for refusing to answer under section 2(3).

Mr Sydney Kentridge, QC and Mr Nigel Fleming, QC, for the director; Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr David Hood for Mr Smith.

LORD MUSTILL said that the appeal raised an important question on two aspects of what was

compensatory, albeit inaccurately, called "the right of silence".

Mr Smith was the chairman and managing director of Wallace Smith Trust Co Ltd. On April 27, 1991, he had informed the Bank of England that the company was in financial difficulty. Events had moved quickly. The police had been called and on the following day they had arrested Mr Smith.

On April 30, after a number of interviews, at the outset of which he had no doubt been cautioned, he had been charged that between January 1, 1985 and April 29, 1991, he had been knowingly a party to the carrying on of the company's business with intent to defraud its creditors, contrary to section 458 of the Companies Act 1985.

The police officer had then cautioned Mr Smith again, as had been his duty under paragraph 16.5 of Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PCEA) (Code of Practice (second edition) (1991)).

It might be assumed that the caution had been in the terms: "You do not have to say anything unless you wish to do so, but what you say may be given in evidence".

It might also be assumed that thereafter the police officers had abstained, as was their duty under Code C, from conducting any further interviews with Mr Smith in relation to the offence with which he had been charged, save perhaps in the limited respects permitted by the code.

On May 7 Mr Smith had been admitted to bail.

Meanwhile, the director had become aware of suspicion attach-

ing to the affairs of the company and at an early stage had formed the opinion that the matter was appropriate for investigation by procedures created by the 1987 Act.

Section 1 of that Act provided, *inter alia*: "(3) The director may investigate any suspected offence which appears to him... to involve serious or complex fraud..."

Section 2 provides: "(2) The director may by notice in writing require the person whose affairs are to be investigated... to answer questions or otherwise furnish information with respect to any matter relevant to the investigation at a specified place..."

"(3) A statement by a person in response to a requirement imposed by virtue of this section may only be used in evidence against him - (a) on a prosecution for an offence under subsection (1) below; or (b) on a prosecution for some other offence where in giving evidence he makes a statement inconsistent with it..."

"(13) Any person who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with a requirement imposed on him under this section shall be guilty of an offence..."

"(14) A person who, in purported compliance with a requirement under this section - (a) makes a statement which he knows to be false or misleading... shall be guilty of an offence..."

A formal notice under section 2 requiring Mr Smith's attendance at the director's office to answer questions and furnish information had been served on him on June 6, 1991 and, after postponement of the interview to allow him a

change of legal representation, a further notice had been served on him on June 24.

In a letter to Mr Smith on June 5, an assistant director of the SFO had said, *inter alia*:

"(2) Unlike a police interview you will not be given what is called a caution. Under the [1987 Act] you are obliged to answer truthfully questions put to you..."

"(4) You can be prosecuted if you dishonestly answer or, without reasonable excuse, fail to answer questions put to you..."

Mr Smith sought to uphold the Divisional Court judgment on two grounds: first, that reading the words of the 1987 Act in their natural sense the director's power to require an answer from a person under investigation ceased from the moment of charge; second, that whatever the words of the Act might suggest, the conflict with Code C and a long-established "right of silence" was so acute that the Act had to be understood as subject to an implied exception in the case of persons who had been charged.

Paragraph 16.5 of Code C provided: "Questions relating to an offence may not be put to a person after he has been charged with that offence, or informed that he may be prosecuted for it..."

The expression "the right of silence" aroused strong but unfocused feelings. In truth, it did not denote any single right but rather referred to a disparate group of immunities, which differed in nature, origin, incidence and importance; and also as to the extent to which they had already been encroached on by statute.

Mr Smith's first proposition was impossible to sustain. The only feasible ground, as a matter of language, for contending that the right to ask questions and demand answers came to an end on charging was that the suspect was no longer a person whose affairs were to be investigated so that there could no longer be "any matter relevant to the investigation".

That interpretation was unreal. It was true that in a simple case the investigation of a suspect's criminality might well terminate at the moment of charging but often that would not be so.

As paragraph 11.4 of Code C made clear, the police officer was obliged to charge a suspect as soon as he believed that there was sufficient evidence for a prosecution to succeed, but nobody could expect the police simply to cease work on the case and rely at the trial only on the material revealed up to the moment of charging.

As to Mr Smith's second proposition, it could not be doubted that there was a strong presumption against interpreting a statute as taking away the right of silence, at least in some of its forms. Lord Griffiths, in *Lee Chi-ming v The Queen* ([1991] 2 AC 212, 222), had described the privilege against self-incrimination as "deeply rooted in English law", and his Lordship would not wish to minimise its importance in any way.

Nevertheless, it was clear that statutory interference with the right was almost as old as the right itself. The statutes in question differed widely as to their aims and methods. There was thus no point

in summarising them. They did no more than show that the legislature had not shrank, where it had seemed appropriate, from interfering in a greater or lesser degree with the immunities grouped under the title of the right to silence.

Nor was anything to be gained by analysing the reported cases in which was presently a contentious area of the law. Most of them were concerned with admissibility of evidence, which was not in issue in the instant case, and none, aside from those to which his Lordship referred (*A v HM Treasury* [1979] 1 WLR 1056, *DDP v Ellis* [1973] 1 WLR 722) and *R v Director of the SFO, Ex parte Saunders* [1988] 138 NLJ 1431) had arisen where in the face of clear and general language it had been contended that Parliament must nevertheless have intended the words of the statute to have only a limited effect.

It was true that the 1987 Act went further than any other drawn to their Lordships' attention. It was also true that section 2(8) did not provide complete protection since information obtained in answer to questions (for example, the location of funds in a foreign bank account) could lead to the disclosure of damaging facts that, once known, could be proved by other means, even if the answers themselves could not be put in evidence. That was not, however, a unique feature of that particular type of legislation.

The history of paragraph 16.5 of Code C showed that it was not directly linked to the ancient and deep-rooted privilege against self-

incrimination. That privilege aimed to protect all citizens against being compelled to condemn themselves, but the law had never set out to protect a subject who condemned himself while acting of his own free will. Its only concern had been to ensure that he really did so, as by the general rule that excluded from evidence any confession not proved to have been voluntary.

It was to secure that aim, and in recognition that a person in custody was in a specially vulnerable position, that it had been thought safer to prohibit questioning after a certain point and to exclude from evidence answers given to such questioning.

Thus, although the rule was now expressed in terms of a prohibition directed towards investigating police officers, it was in essence a development of the law relating to the admissibility of confessions.

Once that was recognised, the reasoning of Mr Smith's argument fell away. Their Lordships were not concerned with the admissibility at the trial of responses to questions by the director; section 2(8) took care of that.

Nor were they concerned with ensuring that the responses were voluntary, since the whole purpose of section 2 was to ensure that they were not. That being so, there was no reason to force on to section 2 an unspoken qualification with which it had nothing to do.

Mr Smith had argued that, if section 2 stood unqualified, the inquisitorial powers of the director would continue to be exercisable until the prosecution was either dropped or concluded by a verdict.

Counsel had conjured up the picture of the accused person, after a grueling day in court, returning to the cells to be met with the sight of an official of the SFO armed with a further batch of questions, which he would be forced to answer on pain of being prosecuted for another offence.

His Lordship found it impossible to believe that the director would send an official to interview a defendant during his trial, even if there were anything to be gained, which was hard to see, as his answers would not be admissible.

Aside from that, there were ample remedies to ensure that the director's powers were not abused. Other than in a most exceptional case, a trial judge who heard that a defendant in the charge of a jury was being interrogated under compulsory powers would not hesitate about what to do.

His Lordship concluded that as a matter of interpretation the director's powers did not cease, as regarded the person under investigation, when he was charged; that the principle of common sense, expressed in the maxim *generalia specialibus non derogant*, entailed that the general provisions of Code C yielded to the particular provisions of the 1987 Act in cases to which it applied; and that neither history nor logic demanded that any qualification of what Parliament had so clearly enacted ought to be implied.

Lord Templeman, Lord Bridge, Lord Ackner and Lord Lowy agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Garstangs.

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Kendrick bowls impressively for Surrey

Worcestershire's bid falters after Hick's dismissal

By JOHN WOODCOCK

THE OVAL (final day of three): Surrey (7pts) drew with Worcestershire (5)

LEFT to make 276 to beat Surrey in 68 overs, Worcestershire finished with 219 for seven. What had begun to look like a generous declaration at tea-time proved to be a very good one, even though, in the end, it left both sides still looking for their first championship win of the season.

After slipping from 126 for one after 36 overs to 201 for seven after 55, Worcestershire called off a chase which had started to go rather promisingly for them while Curtis and Hick were together.

Mainly responsible for their decline was Neil Kendrick, bowling orthodox left-arm spin on a wearing pitch. With the help of a hotly disputed catch by Feltham at short extra cover — Rhodes, the victim, was in no doubt that the ball had not carried — Kendrick stopped Worcestershire in their tracks before Leatherdale and Illingworth, hemmed in by fielders, played out the match.

Although Surrey achieved their aim of a lunchtime declaration, it took a late burst of scoring for them to do so. Forty-seven runs came off the last three overs of the morning, bowled by Illingworth

COUNTY TABLE

	P	W	L	D	NS	Pts
Hampshire (9)	7	3	0	1	1	22
Northants (10)	7	3	0	1	1	22
Derbyshire (10)	8	2	3	0	21	24
Essex (11)	6	2	2	2	18	7
Somerset (17)	7	2	1	4	20	21
Warwick (2)	6	2	3	1	16	21
Leics (18)	8	2	3	3	15	21
Lancashire (8)	8	2	3	1	18	25
Gloucestershire (10)	8	1	2	5	19	18
Notts (4)	5	2	0	3	18	11
Glouce (13)	6	2	1	3	7	19
Sussex (11)	7	1	3	3	21	19
Yorkshire (14)	7	1	5	2	19	19
Middlesex (8)	8	1	3	3	15	18
Gloucestershire (13)	8	1	3	4	15	18
Worcestershire (12)	8	1	1	4	14	18
Glams (7)	7	0	2	5	14	3
Surrey (5)	7	0	1	6	17	14
Worcestershire and Gloucestershire						

records include a match abandoned

(1991 postscript in brackets)

Germany ride their luck before recording a first European championship victory

Scotland depart with pride

Germany..... 2
Scotland..... 0

FROM RUDY FORSYTH
IN NORRKÖPING

THEY must depart the European football championship on Friday morning after this defeat yesterday but Andy Roxburgh and his Scotland players redeemed these insipid finals with a performance of spirit and courage that was worth more than anything in the four ties preceding it in Sweden.

Had they yielded to fate when Effenberg's attempted cross spun from the boot of Malpas and looped over Gorum a minute after the interval, Scotland would have been excused. But their response was to rain relentless combination blows on the world champions only to be undermined, alas, by their longstanding inability to apply the critical touch in front of goal.

True, Scotland could not complain when, after a remarkable opening period that saw them create repeated openings around Ilgner, they fell behind to an economically executed goal scored by Riedle; nor were they anything other than fortunate when Hässler and Möller saw measured shots ricochet back from the posts behind Gorum.

Nevertheless, it took several bouts of scrambled German defending and a sequence of inspirational saves by Ilgner to deny them the single point that would have sustained their interest in this competition.

ITV move criticised

ENGLAND have distanced themselves from ITV's decision to send Uefa a videotape of the incident in which Bastille Boli, the French defender, apparently butted Stuart Pearce. Boli was not penalised by the Hungarian referee, Sandor Puhl, during the goalless game in Malmö.

Pearce, who needed three stitches in a facial injury, criticised the decision. "Players don't like trial by TV at any time," he said.

"I felt it was a total accident and I'm not complaining. As far as I'm concerned, I have no malice for Boli, so where's the problem? These things should be left to the referee, and I thought he had a good game." Uefa confirmed they



Take one: Riedle, left, scores the first goal for Germany in their 2-0 European championship win over Scotland yesterday

The astonishing scenes in the Idrottspark, where the Scottish supporters celebrated for an hour afterwards as though their team had actually won the championship, brought Andy Roxburgh from the dressing room to salute them with tears coursing down his face.

When he was able to compose himself sufficiently to summarise the main proceedings, he said: "We had a real go and you can't legislate for the ball not going into the net."

"On the day, you players either put it there or they don't, and we didn't, but I am bound to say that there was a measure of bad luck as far as our players were concerned."

Early in the match, Hässler was causing us problems down the right hand side, which was mainly a matter of us not covering properly. If anything, we started almost too enthusiastically."

Certainly, the catalogue of Scottish opportunities was extraordinary during the first 20 minutes. Two fell to McAllister, the first an attempted chip over Ilgner, which the goalkeeper beat away two-handed, the second a volley that missed its target by a few inches.

McClair, too, was offered a sight of goal and, with an agile swivel, he spun the ball accurately towards the net but again Ilgner got his fingers to the ball. A Gough header that crossed the goalmouth begged to be diverted over the line as did a free kick from McAllister, which fell at the feet of McPherson no more than three yards out but, even from that range, the Rangers defender somehow contrived to strike the ball vertically into the stand beyond.

Such profligacy was bound to be punished and, sure enough, as the half-hour mark approached, Germany struck. Sammer began the move with a thrust into the Scottish penalty area, where Klinsmann held off Gough to nudge the ball ahead of Riedle. McKimmie might have intervened but he was baffled by the speed of the manoeuvre and the Roma forward drove smartly beyond Gorum.

The contest now swung from end to end with both sides having to scurry to contain the other's counterattacks. Scotland could consider themselves very much in contention at the break but their ambition was struck a

lethal blow within seconds of the restart by Effenberg's diverted cross.

Self-pity might have been appropriate, instead, Scotland galvanised their sinews and drew strength from some apparently inexhaustible inner well. Without ever being dirty or brutal, the game became literally bonecrushing and, in their attempts to repel the waves of Scottish assaults, Buchwald and Reuter were led from the field with their

heads swathed in bandages. Riedle stayed put at the cost of a broken nose and he and his two fellow casualties will almost certainly miss the crucial section decider with Holland on Thursday. Scotland may effectively be gone but their impact on this tournament is reverberating fiercely.

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Courier and Seles head seedings list

BY ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

SINGLES SEEDS

THE world's No. 1 tennis players, Monica Seles and Jim Courier, neither of whom have progressed beyond the quarter-finals at Wimbledon, will head the list of seeds when the championships begin next Monday. The seedings committee, which has the right to alter the world rankings to take account of grass-court expertise, did announce a number of changes in the men's seedings, though not in the women's, which exactly follows the computer.

Boris Becker, champion three times and finalist for six of the past seven years, and the defending champion, Michael Stich, have been promoted above Pete Sampras, who is ranked three in the world but whose results on grass have not yet matched his potential. Sampras has won just one match at Wimbledon. Becker has won 42, and more than £750,000 in prize money.

Stich is seeded three and Becker four. Sampras has dropped to five, which is entirely fair. Had Sampras remained at three, Edberg, Becker and Stich, who have six titles between them, could have been drawn in the same half. As it is, Stich and Becker, who confirmed yesterday that he has dismissed Tomas Smid, his third coach in 16 months, will now be in different halves.

The Spaniard, Carlos Costa, the world No. 10 who has played just one match on grass, is not seeded, allowing David Wheaton, a semi-finalist last year, to be promoted from a ranking of 27 to No. 16 seed. After a poor year so far, the American does not really deserve the honour, but he has a better chance of reaching the later stages than the cluster of clay-court specialists above him.

After their controversial decision to make Seles the top seed last year, before the Yugoslav's withdrawal, the committee had little alternative but to stick by the rankings again. In the intervening year, Seles has won all three grand slam titles and strengthened her position as world No. 1, while Martina Navratilova's quarter-final defeat last year did nothing to support her belief she should have been seeded higher. Thankfully, too, there has been no attempt to punish Seles for her indiscretions 12 months ago.

A case could have been made for Graf, the defending and three-times champion, to move above Seles on the strength of her grass-court record, but it would have made little difference because, either way, the pair would not be scheduled to meet until the final.

Similarly, Courier has earned his position as top seed by winning the first two grand slam tournaments of the year and, in his present mood, is unlikely to be troubled by the thought of the three Wimbledon champions breathing down his neck.

Woosnam needs to recover form

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN PEBBLE BEACH, CALIFORNIA

WITH the 92nd US Open starting on the Pebble Beach course here on Thursday, Ian Woosnam has mislaid the winning touch. Unless he gets it back soon, he could be tempted to take a break from the game.

Since he captivated Augusta by winning the US Masters 14 months ago, Woosnam has won only one tournament, the Monte Carlo Open last year. Although he made a commendable defence of his Masters title in April, he has played in eight tournaments in 1992 with a best finish of fifth, in the Cannes Open. He finished 31st, 55th and 33rd in his past three tournaments.

What worries Woosnam is the thought of losing his game altogether. "I don't think I'm the kind of player who, if I started playing badly, could go on competing," he said. "I think I might simply stop, go away and sort it out. I don't think I'm the kind of person who could keep banging the head against a brick wall. It would drive me crazy."

"To me that would be like going back to the old days. I would find it very difficult. I would hate to become as frustrated as I was ten years ago, before I first won."

Woosnam, the runner-up in the 1989 US Open, can raise his game for the major championships. "I seem to get in a more positive frame of mind for them," he said. "I struggle at times to concentrate but that isn't a worry in the majors."

LEADING STARS: TIMES US unless noted at Pebble Beach. 1. Seles (Yug), 2. Courier (US), 3. Graf (Ger), 4. Navratilova (Cze), 5. Sampras (US), 6. Korda (Cz), 7. Chang (US), 8. Hruska (Cze), 9. Forget (Fr), 10. Lendl (Cz), 11. Krajicek (Hol), 12. Agassi (US), 13. Gilbert (US), 14. Farnisa (SA), 15. Voth (US), 16. Wheaton (US).

WOMEN
1. Seles (Yug), 2. Graf (Ger), 3. Sabatini (Arg), 4. Navratilova (Cze), 5. Sanchez-Vicario (Sp), 6. Capriati (US), 7. Fernandez (Sp), 8. Martinez (Sp), 9. Malesse-Fragaride (Swe), 10. Huber (Ger), 11. Novotna (Cz), 12. K. Seles (Yug), 13. K. Seles (Yug), 14. Tausz (Fr), 15. K. Seles (Yug), 16. J. Seles (Yug).

Experts on both sides of the Atlantic will be consulted and John Morris, the board secretary, who will have talks in London on the subject soon with Jose Sulaiman, the World Boxing Council president, said: "There is a lack of genuine knowledge about some overseas fighters."

□ HIV tests will be carried out annually on all boxers in Britain.

Natal sign Marshall of Barbados

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Johannesburg: The West Indian fast bowler, Malcolm Marshall, has signed a contract to play for the South African provincial side, Natal, the cricket club announced here yesterday.

Brian Short, the Natal cricket union chief executive, told an independent radio station that the former West Indian Test player would help boost Natal's domestic ambitions.

He denied that Marshall, aged 34, was getting past his best, saying the Barbadian was "as vicious as he ever was". Marshall arrives in South Africa in September.

□ Tony Middleton, the Hampshire batsman, fell 16 runs short of becoming the first batsman to reach 1,000 first-class runs for the season at Edgbaston yesterday. His disappointment was exacerbated when the Warwickshire pace bowler, Gladstone Small, played out the last 15 overs to deny his side its fourth victory of the season.

Surrey hold on, page 36
Scoreboards and averages, page 36

Scotland keep option open of assessing Scott's form

FROM ALAN LORIMER IN TOOWOOMBA

SCOTLAND have named Martin Scott as the reserve hooker for their penultimate tour game tomorrow night against Queensland Country Origin. Scott joined the touring party only yesterday after being flown out from Scotland as replacement for the injured Ken Milne.

Charlie Ritchie, the tour manager, however, revealed that Scott could yet play in the game and the assumption is that the tour selectors may be considering a late switch in order to assess his fitness and possible readiness for inclusion in the Scotland team to face Australia in Brisbane.

Commenting on the team, Richie Dixon, the Scotland coach, said: "There are one or two areas in the international side that we have to look at. The Wednesday players know that." In particular, Dixon referred to "the lineout problem" experienced last Saturday against Australia. "There are places up for grabs," he said.

Among the forwards it is Damian Cronin who has the best chance of promotion. The London Scot has been appointed pack leader, but it

is not his generalship that will be under scrutiny, rather his technical ability in the line-out opposite Garrick Morgan, who will be playing his third game against the touring team. A good display by Cronin could result in his recall to the national side as the expense of Neil Edwards, of Harlequins.

Derek Bain, injured in the game last Tuesday against New South Wales in Tarnworth, is hopeful of being fit for the game tomorrow. Should he fail to recover in time, the Scots will reluctantly

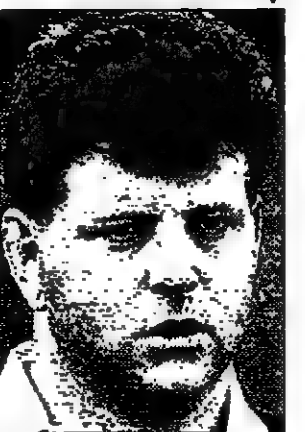
play either Sean Lineen or Scott Hastings. That, however, would give the young mid-field trio that had played in the midweek games more direction.

Among the backs, Ken Logan, who is on the right wing tomorrow, will be scrutinised for the international side. He would have to displace Tony Stanger, but according to David Johnston, the assistant coach, "he is one of these players who instinctively tends to do things right."

TEAM: M. Roebuck; D. Campbell, R. Tamba, T. Hume, P. Carrasco, M. Lynagh, N. Farr, J. Jones, T. Day, P. Morris, E. McKenzie, W. O'Brien, R. McCull, J. Eadie, D. Wilson, T. Gawn. Replacements: P. Jorgensen, A. Hebert, P. Slattery, T. Collier, D. Crowley, T. Lawlor.

SCOTLAND vs Queensland Country Origin: P. Dodd (Capt), K. Logan (Shirley County), D. Bain (Melrose), G. Shaw (Melrose), D. Stanger (Ayr), G. Towrie (Glasgow), D. Milne (London Scottish), P. Jones (Glasgow), I. Corbett (Glasgow), A. Macdonald (Edinburgh Academical), C. Gray (Nottingham), J. Cronin (London Scottish), J. Robertson (Hartlepool), A. Macdonald (Hartlepool), C. Chalmers (Melrose), A. Stanger (London Scottish), C. Hogg (Melrose), P. Wright (Barnstaple), M. Scott (Queensland).

□ Australia have announced an unchanged side for the second international match against Scotland on Sunday at Ballymore in Brisbane.



Cronin: under scrutiny

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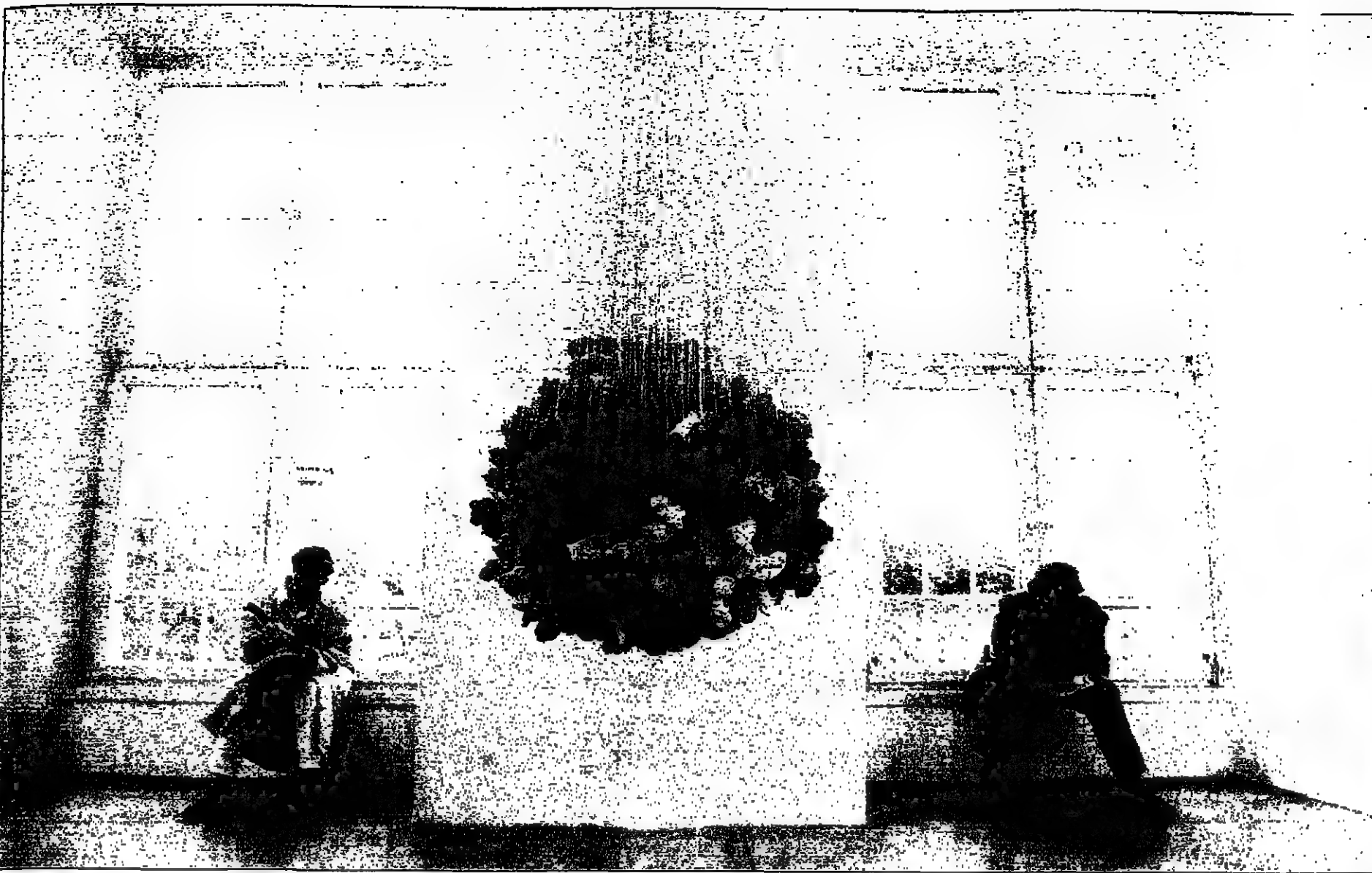
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Safety talk

Once every five years, a small town in Germany hosts the world's biggest exhibition of contemporary art. Richard Cork reviews Documenta IX in Kassel



Visitors to Documenta IX pause for thought, alongside work by Michel François (left) and in front of Jonathan Borofsky's sculpture outside the Fridericianum (right): the gargantuan, sprawling exhibition is a test of stamina

State of the art spectacular

Not content with spending £5.5 million to jet in 190 artists from all over the world, Documenta IX has thrown in a little more. In Kassel, this gargantuan jamboree has established itself since the war as the largest and most spectacular of all contemporary art exhibitions. Every five years the entire international art world descends on this sedate German city and overdoes on a cornucopia of discordant contributions from the established, the ascendant and the unknown. In a sequence of galleries spread across the centre of Kassel, and spilling out over acres of parkland as well, Documenta is essential viewing for anyone who wants to diagnose the state of the art.

This summer, the Belgian museum director Jan Hoet has decided to mix art with sport and music. Hoet claims that, by making these diverse activities confront each other, he is setting "a broader challenge to art". But I worry about pitching artists against the visceral excitement which gladiatorial athletes can arouse. The adrenalin induced by boxing or baseball has no direct counterpart in our slower, quieter and more meditative response to art. And the exhibitions in Documenta IX should certainly not be seen as competitors.

In one sense, though, Hoet's emphasis on physical endurance has a point. For visitors to Documenta need stamina. They could be forgiven for envying the man in Jonathan Borofsky's colossal sculpture outside on the Friedrichsplatz, who marches up a gleaming steel pole towards the sky. Shirt sleeves rolled up, this purposeful adventurer gives the lie to the nearby 18th-century statue of Frederick II. The monarch looks as earthbound as the rest of us, but maybe Borofsky's heavenly explorer is reminding visitors that Documenta begins high up in the tower of the Fridericianum Museum.

Here, in a former astronomical observatory, eight artists mostly from the past provide the show with its historical compost. But we would be wrong to conclude that images like David's *Death of Marat*, Ensor's self-portrait, Gauguin's Tahitian scene and Giacometti's *The Nose* indicate a backwards lurch into traditionalism. For Hoet sees these secular icons as attempts to "move out of history" and become "liberated from constraints". Although the messianic arch-liberator Joseph Beuys is

included in the tower, Hoet stops well short of proposing that artists can change the world. The collapse of utopian ideologies in recent years has convinced him that, if art can alter anything, it is the individual rather than society.

Not that Documenta IX has a cautious air. Hoet wants the show to propose nothing less than "a completely new structure, itself to be a blueprint for an approach to art in the Nineties". He aims at launching an onslaught on the spectators' nerve ends, with an exhibition that "attacks visitors, seduces them, threatens, confuses, caresses, relaxes".

This heady ambition takes its most frenetic form in the large and rambling Fridericianum Museum. Step inside the calm classical portico, and Bruce Nauman assails you at once with a loud, rasping, intensely theatrical installation. A vast white box crawling with images of black ants leads into a hellhole of video monitors filled with pictures of a man's shaven head, spinning as he shouts out indecipherable noises. There is no respite inside this clangorous chamber, and even after we have escaped, the sound pursues us throughout the museum.

Next door to Nauman, Maria Merz has placed a small quiet fountain in the centre of an otherwise bare white room. Her extreme purity contrasts with the sprawling profusion of Michael Buthe's exotic installation beyond, dedicated to *The Holy Night of a Bride to be*. Around a fantastical structure of intertwined candles leading up to a cluster of gilded eggs, copper panels bear freely splattered images of female figures.

By no means all the rooms strive for provocative contrast. Francis Bacon, one of only five British artists in the show, is hung next to a suitably ominous and disturbing photo series of shadowy figures by Suzanne Lafont. Bacon's death has turned his canvases into a memorial. They prove that the octogenarian painter was working powerfully to the end. And the triptych in particular takes on an elegiac air. A portrait of the younger Bacon is included in one section, balancing the unidentified young face on the other side. The artist appears to be contemplating his life with sadness, and in particular the erotic urge which unites

two naked, writhing figures in the centre.

Mortality becomes even more overt inside the installation called *Precious Liquids* by Louise Bourgeois. Now 81 and still irrepressible, she has erected a wooden structure with the inscription *Art is a Guaranty [sic] Of Sanity*. Inside, an ancient bed with a lead mattress stands below a cluster of empty, dust-laden glass vessels. Most of the liquid they held has vanished down the plughole in the mattress, but hope survives as a luminous, shell-like form glowing on the floor nearby.

Outside the museum, above the underground car park, where the hard-hitting Cady Noland has placed damaged vehicles and photographs of crash victims, Anish Kapoor's exhibit takes the form of a simple cubic building. Inside, he confronts and disorients the visitor with a large circular floor cavity, coated in limitless blue. The mysterious privacy of the experience he offers could hardly be further removed from Richard Deacon's sculpture, lying in open parkland below. Like a cross between a baseball bat and a juggler's skittle, his bulbous wooden form nestles content-

edly within a crisp metal berth.

The show becomes confrontational again in the Neue Galerie, where the permanent collection of 18th-century portraits has been partly dismantled to make way for Zoe Leonard's close-up photographs of vaginas. They look startling among the polite, smiling society ladies, but amount to little more than shock tactics. I preferred the corridor where Joseph Kosuth has draped the old master paintings in black cloth printed with quotations from Wittgenstein ("objects I can only name"), Sartre ("hell is other people"), Artaud ("all writing is pig-shit"), and Auden ("art is our chief means of breaking bread with the dead").

But in the end Documenta is about the living. However partially Hoet has succeeded in arriving at his blueprint for the decade ahead, he does highlight artists who deserve to be better known. One, Bill Viola, presents a stunning video installation within a dark, tall vault at the new Documenta-Halle. Projected on an immense vertical screen, slow-motion images of a figure falling towards water, and then floating underneath,

seize the attention with their alarming yet lyrical power.

Back in the Fridericianum, Gary Hill is equally mesmerising. Walk into his *Tail Ships* video installation, and the darkness prevents you from seeing anything at first. Then, by degrees, a long passage opens out ahead. White figures, all slightly out of focus,

appear on the walls, walking towards or away from you. Whether tentative, friendly, puzzled or frail, they all seem at once intimate and remote. The silent *fricte* terminates with an image of a little girl. She raises her arms slowly in a simple gesture, and then returns them to her side. Both welcoming and bemused, this vulnerable figure seems to be gently acknowledging the final unfathomability of human experience.

● Documenta IX runs to September 20, open daily 10am-8pm.

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A decade of boom for golfers: Chamonix, the famous ski resort, turned to the world's leading designer Robert Trent-Jones to build a golf course in the shadow of Mont-Blanc

Getting into the swing of things



LONG gone are the days when golf clubs in France were few and far between and the language barrier brought all sorts of misunderstandings. However, the boom in golf and course building has not been matched by the number of home-grown "debutantes" and the French have turned to golfing tourists, particularly the British, to recover their costs and provide income.

There are 27 companies offering specialist golf packages in France. Perhaps the easy option is to choose one of these, especially for a first visit, but France is ideally suited to the independent traveller. Avoid weekends, July and August, and you will rarely find any problem getting a game.

If doing-it-yourself does not appeal, read the brochures and select the area you fancy then go for the operator who specialises in that region. Much of the French golf explosion has occurred in their traditional holiday spots, in Normandy and Brittany, around Bordeaux and Biarritz, along the Mediterranean seaboard, even high up in the Alps.

So tourists, golf or otherwise, are no strangers and hotel owners, big and small, often join forces with clubs to offer a local package, room with dinner and golf thrown in, and some of these deals are £30 a head in spring and autumn.

If you are a first-timer, head for Boulogne and the courses nearby at Wimereux, Hardelot, St Omer and Le Touquet, a chic destination for Paris week-enders with any number of hotels and restaurants in town. Three or four days here, especially in mid-week, can be very rewarding. The French Open championship has been staged on the sea course at Le Touquet and there are few better courses to be found anywhere.

A new 18 holes were opened last year at Hardelot, but the old course retains its magic among the pine forests. Many a missed putt on the 18th or scuffed drive on the first have been witnessed from the windows of the delightful Restaurant du Golf, where there are several price options on the inclusive menu but the five-course gourmet offering is never more than FF180.

Further into France but still just-across-the-channel are the many courses in Normandy, with a diverse mixture of brand new hotels and converted chateaux. Between Rouen and the quaint seaside town of Deauville is the new

Andrew Graham offers a guide to the best of the growing number of golf courses

course at Champ de Bataille where the massive, 17th-century chateau could hold a regiment. Externally, its splendour rivals many a royal palace but today it serves merely as a clubhouse; the recession put paid to the plans for a hotel here.

Closer to Rouen, a more modest edifice will be found at Le Vaudreuil. There are just 40 beds in the hotel, the former garrison of this lovely old estate. Deauville itself has 27 holes, a favourite of the 1930s socialites who took a weekend's racing with their golf. There you have three venues, all well worth a visit, and a golf pass for this region allows five rounds in a seven-day period from a wide selection of courses for FF850.

Moving south, to Brittany, there are half-a-dozen new courses close to the Atlantic coast between Quimper and Saint-Laurent. This is rural France and for a week's golfing holiday, or longer, a number of self-catering options are available, from country cottages to studio apartments on the coast.

If you prefer the more established clubs, try La Baule. Demand is reflected in the level of green fees, £30 and more, depending on season and day of the week. But the championship 18 holes are a superb test, particularly the closing holes around the lake. You can save a few pennies accompanied by a touch of luxury as the Hotel l'Herminette, in town, provides one of those all-in packages.

On now to Bordeaux, oyster country and you can gorge from freshly opened shells by the roadside for FF25 a dozen, or upwards of FF50 at one of the many fish restaurants in the old town. Close to Bordeaux and further down the coast, are some truly excellent clubs which have opened their fairways during the past five years... Pessac, Gujan Mestras, Arcachon, Seignosse, Moliets.

The long-established Plan-Medoc introduced a second track last autumn. Both are inland links and by no means great courses, but there is a splendid club house and restaurant. Each hole is named after one of the 360 chateaux of the Medoc and every one is represented on the club's wine list. A nice touch, with a three-course lunch for FF75. When I played there in the spring, not more than a dozen others were out, on both courses.

Forty miles due west of Bordeaux are the newish 27 holes of Lacanau. Huge pine trees dominate the fairways and it is always one more club to the green, at least. Here is a good example of the value for money to be found in French golf. The modern, timbered hotel, complete with spacious rooms and swimming pool, provides six nights' half-board and five days' golf, in low season, for about £260. A typical menu when I stayed there offered a choice of entrée, poached salmon or Beef Wellington.

Biarritz has two courses in the town and three more nearby, rather heavier on the pocket in this area, but they have bulging memberships and no need to attract so many visitors. Chiberta, smack on the beach, is a giant if the wind is blowing, and if bunker-play is not your forte, avoid Hossegor.

To reach the Mediterranean, we must cross country below the mauve mass of the Pyrenees and for history's sake, stop en route at Pau. This is where it all began, the first course in continental Europe, created by the Duke of Wellington's Scottish infantrymen having a spot of r-and-r in the Napoleonic wars. Faded portraits of killed ex-captains set the scene in the club house and it is no rumour that the first French member was not admitted until 1936.

From St Cyprien, close to the Spanish border, to Cannes and Nice, there is little need to search too hard to find some convenient golf. But if you are touring by car, take care with your valuables — the French have a very big problem with car-theives along their southern coastline.

At Montpellier are the clubs and hotels at Massane and La Grande Motte, an ugly, futuristic, holiday resort, where the young professionals are required to qualify for the European Tour events. Courses in this region were opening at the rate of one a month until this year, and in the Var region of Provence, from one 18-hole and one nine-hole course in 1986, there are now 14 courses open or in the building stage.

From St Tropez to St Raphael, hotels fall over themselves to fill their rooms away from high-summer, all along this coast. So before you pay the green fee, always ask if there is an arrangement with a local hostelry. The French expect it and will respect you for asking.

I have long been surprised that France has taken so long to catch on among the British golfing fraternity who have surrendered to the £50, five-hour rounds further south. Long may that remain, but really and truly, there is plenty of space and France does need our support.

In Paris, today's winners and their partners will stay for two nights in a Connoisseur executive guest room at the four star Hotel Copthorne Commodore, which has recently been restored to its original splendour. Opened in 1927, the Commodore was a fashionable rendezvous in

"But taking on too big a task is the largest single problem. Restoration costs here are about the same as they are in England. Labour costs are cheaper but the raw materials costs more, so things balance out. Putting in a bathroom may be fine and replacing a roof is fairly straightforward, but taking on both of those plus re-wiring and new plumbing can become daunting, especially if you are trying to have the work done long distance."

Part of the reason for the disillusion this can cause is impatience: anyone buying a second home in France wants to be able to use it more or less immediately. That is why it is far better to spend a little extra on a house that is habitable but scruffy rather than on one that needs gutting before you can spend a night in it.

So people who look at houses while on holiday need to take a deep breath before committing themselves. Buying in France is very much subject to the law of diminishing returns: there are plenty of cheap houses, but if it costs the same amount again to do them up, do not expect to get your money back for a long time, if ever.

PETER BARNARD
NEXT WEEK: Hidden costs

On Fridays, *The Times/LBC Last Minute France Holiday* is your guide to surprise holiday, travel and rental bargains. On Thursday after 6pm on LBC *NEWSTALK* (97.3 FM), Angela Rippon in her *Drivetime* programme will preview the last-minute offers available in Friday's paper.

PACKAGED AND READY TO PLAY

- The rapid growth of the game has rendered guide books on golf in France, particularly the few printed in English, virtually out of date as soon as they are published.
- But information is not impossible to gather. The French Government Tourist Office at 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL, has just published a new brochure, *The Golfing Traveler in France*. It also has an information pack, *Golf in France*, and a road map with every course, location and telephone number, which are updated annually. Write to the tourist office enclosing £1.30 in stamps, plus your address, and it will send all three publications.
- Hoverspeed's SeaCat from Folkestone to Boulogne (0304 240241) takes only 45 minutes, and Le Touquet is barely a half-hour drive if you fancy a few days across the Channel.
- F & O Ferries (0304 223000) includes the fare for a car and two passengers, hotel and a choice of golf on four courses in Normandy in its Short Breaks brochure. Other ferry companies also offering golf breaks are Sully Lines (071-355 2266), Sealink Holidays (0233 647033) and Brittany Ferries (0705 751833).
- French Golf Holidays (0277 261004) virtually pioneered the long weekend at Hardelot and Le Touquet and has extended to Paris and Bordeaux. Britany Direct Holidays (081-644 1225) is the expert in Brittany, while Par-Tee Tours (0923 284558) is experienced in providing golf packages to Biarritz.
- Fairways of France (0800 225501) is a fast-growing company with a widespread selection of holidays in many regions, and Eurogolf (0727 42256) features more and more destinations in France every year.
- The most comprehensive programme is offered by Longshot Golf Holidays (0730 68621), which links up with Air France to provide fly-drive holidays.

C'est un fair cop, m'sieur



ESSENTIAL
FRENCH:
LES FLICS

The first time I came across the word *flic* was in June 1968. I arrived in Paris too late for the *événements*: all the barricades had gone. But the walls of the apartment I was staying in were still plastered with radical posters, one bearing the message, "A bas les flics!" ("Down with flics!")

"Qu'est-ce qu'un flic?" I asked in all innocence.

"Un flic c'est un poulet," replied Roland, a bearded, double-bass-playing Maoist whose pretty, suicidal wife, Françoise, I was in love with. "Un chicken?" I queried, translating literally.

"Non!" Roland was busy painting a placard at the time.

"Les flics, ce sont les pigs."

"Tu veux dire des cochons?"

I imagined this was some subtle allusion to Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

"Mon Dieu! Un flic c'est ce que tu appelles sans doute un 'agent de police'." ("A flic is what you doubtless call a policeman.") It was true: my vocabulary was cravenly bourgeois.

The first time I came across a *flic* in the flesh was when one asked me: "Vous n'avez pas de faux rouges en Angleterre?" ("Don't you have traffic lights in England?")

This question was more than merely academic since I had just gone through one — when the *feu* was rouge. It was some years later and I was out driving with Françoise in her 2CV. She had divorced Roland and married a travelling salesman named Bertrand. Had my French been good enough I might have explained all this to the *flic* by way of *circonstances atténuantes* (mitigating circumstances).

"Montrez-moi vos papiers" ("show me your papers"). This is almost the worst phrase a motorist can hear. Particularly if you don't have any. The very worst is: "Vous me suivez au commissariat?" ("Follow me to the police station?"), which is what the *flic* said next.

I didn't know the French for "It's a fair cop, guv". As a long-time revolutionary Françoise had difficulty grasping this concept, but finally she came up with: "Je me constitue votre

prisonnier." This is what she would say, she said, if she had just shot her lover and she wanted to surrender to the police. "Mais je ne me livrerai jamais!" ("but I would never surrender").

I had to send to England for my *permis de conduire* (driving licence) and I was given a FF100 *amende* (fine). But the *flic* had not only nipped a potential habitual traffic offender in the bud but forestalled a *crime passionnel*.

Other useful words and expressions include:

Défense de stationner — parking prohibited.

La pervenche — traffic warden (normally a woman) because of the blue uniform (literally, periwinkle; formerly known in the days of a maroon outfit as *une aubergine*; officially, *une contractuelle*).

J'en ai pas pour longtemps — I won't be long.

Envoyez-moi ça en Angleterre! (accompanied by a tearing gesture) — send it to me in England!

I recently asked a taxi driver what was the worst thing you could say to another driver. There may have been a degree of self-interest in his answer: "Tu aurais dû prendre un taxi!" ("You ought to have taken a taxi." Note: drivers invariably use the *tu* form. Among the limited repertoire of polite possibilities, he also suggested "Conducteur de dimanche" (Sunday driver). What was the secret of good driving, I asked him. "C'est la spécialité des anglais — le 'self control'." We say *sangfroid*, the French say *self control*.

"La conduite c'est la vie," he added philosophically: "If you guard your calm." ("Driving is like life — you have to stay calm.")

ANDY MARTIN

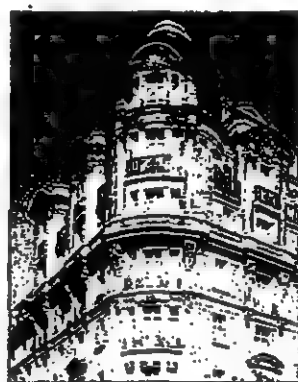
Every day this week five two-day trips to Paris are on offer to *Times* readers

Win a luxury break to Paris

EVERY day this week, *The Times*, in association with T.A.T. European Airlines and Copthorne Hotels, is giving you the chance to win one of five luxury two-night breaks in Paris.

The winners of today's competition and their partners will be flown by T.A.T. European Airlines, the French independent airline, to Charles de Gaulle Airport, where the airline operates from unexcelled modern facilities at Terminal 2B. On board, complimentary drinks and a light snack will be served with a free copy of *The Times*.

Paris's "golden triangle", between the Opera and the Stock Exchange, and at the heart of the business and shopping districts. Today's winners will also receive two complimentary tickets to visit the Louvre museum and art gallery. To enter simply answer the three questions below by tele-



The splendid Commodore

phoning our competition line on 0891 700149 before midnight tonight. Give your answers, and leave your name, address and telephone number.

Calls cost 36p a minute at cheap rate and 48p a minute at all other times. Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight and notified by telephone tomorrow. The winners' names will be published in *The Times* on Thursday, June 18.

● *The Times* is on sale in most major towns in France. To be sure of keeping up with our French series while you're on holiday, contact our subscriptions department, which can mail you a copy every day. A two-week subscription will cost £14.40. Please write to: News International Distribution Ltd, Subscriptions Dept, PO Box 479, Virginia Street, London E1 9XV (071-782 6129; fax 071-782 6130).

QUESTIONS

1. Who was the first aviator successfully to fly across the Channel between the UK and France?

2. What was the Musée D'Orsay before it became a museum?

3. What is the banking area of Paris called?

● **Conditions of entry:** Employees (and their relatives) of *Times Newspapers Ltd*, T.A.T. Copthorne Hotels or their agents are ineligible for entry. The editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into. *The Times* competition rules apply — available on request.



Sail to France for free

THIS week sees the start of the second of our exclusive Passport to France travel offers with *The Times* giving you the chance to take your family free to France. Readers can save up to £190 by sailing to France with Sealink Stena Line ferries before August 31, 1992 and receiving a ticket free for a return cross-Channel trip between September 14 and December 17, 1992.

The offer, which is available on the Dover-Calais, Southampton-Cherbourg and Newhaven-Dieppe routes, gives you the freedom to enjoy a go-as-you-please motoring holiday.

To qualify for our exclusive Sealink offer, readers of *The Times* are invited to book and pay for an all-in car standard return at the brochure price for travel before August 31. The all-in car standard return fare entitles up to five persons (including the driver) to take any length of car, motorised caravan or minibus by Sealink for a minimum seven-day stay.

Readers will then be entitled to a free ticket on Sealink's all-in car (up to five days) faresaver return for travel between September 14 and December 17 inclusive, subject to restricted space.



CALAIS is most famous, perhaps, for Rodin's bronze statue *The Burghers* (above), dedicated to the officials who gave themselves as hostages to Edward III of England in 1347 to raise the siege of Calais. Many tourists in the town go in search of burgers of another kind, but discriminating visitors will find plenty of good eating places in Calais. The most satisfactory restaurant is still Le Channel on the seafront Boulevard de la Résistance, an archetypal French dining room down to its red gingham tablecloths. You have to be quick to get in while there is still room, and La Sole Meunière next door just isn't as good. Le Channel's telephone number is 010 33 21 34 42 30, and, except on Sundays and holidays, menus start at FF85.

Of the Calais hotels the Meurice (010 33 21 34 57 03 40) is quiet and genteel, in a side street at the sea end of town, with a mixed bag of rooms from FF260-375. The centrally sited Holiday Inn Garden Court (010 33 21 34 69 69) is new, functional and efficient (FF380). The Pacary (010 33 21 96 68 00), with standardised rooms at FF310, and the Métropol (010 33 21 97 54 00), which charges FF220-340, are the best of the rest.

HOW TO BOOK

Readers should book their travel before August 31 by contacting their local Abta travel agent, motoring organisation or Sealink direct on 0233 615222. Monday-Friday 7.30am to 8.30pm; Saturday 7.30am to 7.30pm; Sunday 9am to 5pm. Readers will then receive a voucher and a booking form entitling them to a free ticket for travel between September 14 and December 17, 1992.

After completing the first journey, readers should attach to the application form the counterfoil of the first ticket and 10 different Passport to France Sealink tokens from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* between June 14 and June 27.



PASSPORT TO
FRANCE



SEALINK
TOKEN

Big ideas cut down to size

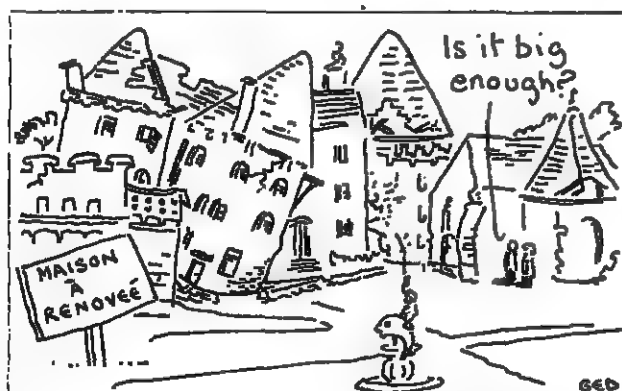


AT HOME

A few weeks ago, just outside the small town of Eymet in the southern Dordogne, I visited a former mill which is for sale. It consists of a restored main house with two bedrooms and room for more, a single-storey renovated house with three more bedrooms, a restored barn with water and electricity and more than two acres of land centred on a river tributary and a mill pond.

The price is FF1,350,000 (£135,000), which represents extraordinary value compared with its equivalent in the UK. But from a British buyer's standpoint, what exactly is such a property for?

After location, which I dealt with last week, the question of what type of house to buy is the most vexed. This is a very



important decision, because most British people buying in France will want a long-term home, especially if there is a half-formed plan to retire there one day. However fond the British may be of moving house within Britain, uprooting from one home to another in France after a year or two in the "wrong" house is not something most of us want to take on.

Most of the rural property in France is cheaper than the mill, but after a brief look at

the market it is important to decide how much space you want. Once you have a house there, you will soon discover more friends than you thought you had. You may also decide to rent it out for part of the year. The rental market is growing, therefore competition is fierce.

Even if the house is only for you, how many is "you"? I know of a couple with four married children who enjoy having long family holidays at their house in the Loire Valley. They have six bedrooms, but feel they need somewhere bigger.

Denis Doddridge, a former Newbury accountant who runs an estate agency in Eymet, says the two biggest pitfalls for British buyers are the amount of land they buy and the fact that they will take on too large a task in terms of restoration.

"People see that an acre of land here costs perhaps £800 to £1,000 and they think 'Lovely, we'll have some of that'. But, of course, they often have no use for that much land and they have to have it maintained while they aren't here."

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The agony or the ecstasy

To be or not to be a mother? That is the question Stephanie Calman can't answer

A woman walking along the street sees a handsome man. She thinks about kissing him, then having sex with him. As she walks she imagines a relationship. Then she starts to worry: what if I fall in love with him and we live together, and he leaves me for someone else? She crosses the street and slaps the man across the face. "You bastard!" she cries, and storms away, leaving him baffled. This is a very significant joke for me. It illustrates exactly my fears about having children.

An otherwise functional adult of 31, I am floating in indecision. This is an anxious, occasionally semi-conscious state in which I am linked to my imagination by a twisted cord which supplies me with absurd scenarios of my possible future as a mother.

In one, my first child is born with a chronic illness. I give up work to spend all my time worrying and taking it to the hospital, while my boyfriend's career becomes more and more glamorous and remote. Then the second child, jealous of the attention given to the first, gets into various kinds of trouble and has to have slow, expensive therapy. I become depressed and lose my looks, figure and talent. My boyfriend goes off with someone as lively as I used to be. I end up in a documentary about people who chain smoke and live on income support.

At the same time, I have this other fantasy, a classic pessimist's dream: my children are bright and beautiful and have lots of friends, and no allergies or addictions or acne. We all live happily ever after in a house with sunshine permanently pouring through the windows like a commercial for life insurance.

I open my mouth but draw no conclusion. I am suspended in procrastinative fluid. "It's an extraordinary experience; it changes you for ever," they tell me about motherhood. They say the same about India. But does that mean I have to go and see all those people dying in the streets?

To get a better perspective on this business, I have started doing some research. I watch documentaries about the communication skills of the children around the world. I sit in the kitchens of parents I've just met and quiz them about learning development and peer group dynamics. I

read articles on pages like this one. And meanwhile the emotions swell, making a mockery of my intelligence gathering. I identify with the (childless) woman in the Tony Marchant play who wanted — ever so gently — to bite a baby's bottom. I watch the children from the local primary school going up the street hand in hand, their little voices babbling, and tears come into my eyes. I ask a mother of toddlers: "How has it changed your life?" And she says, "Well, every surface in the house is now coated with jam."

Right now I have these maternal longings regularly; my boyfriend times them. However, I am freaked out by the biology. An entire person covered in slime bursts out of your intimate regions, and no one thinks it's strange. This is a Stephen King story, isn't it? You can tell me. The people I ask, "How do you do it?" answer: "You just do." I see.

When I look at some of the people I have known who chose not to become parents, the argument tips way over in favour of chucking the diaphragm out right away. My parents' friends Sophie and Mike couldn't possibly have their equilibrium upset by children. They have their print collection and their Lancia and their routine, and it all has to be just so. Twenty-five years later, Sophie still mentions the time we went to visit them in Chippenham and I put my sticky hands on her silk dress.

Then there are Emma and Geoff, whose devotions are to exotic holidays and stereo equipment. Dinner there is an audio-visual experience usually featuring a safari and/or slides accompanied by detailed commentary. Emma adores wildebeest. She finds children "smelly, mucky things". Geoff doesn't fancy — literally — his wife as a mother. Having flashed a camera at everything east and west of the Nile, he regards breast-feeding as indecent exposure.

Needless to say, I have friends also glad to be childless who are utterly lovely. A couple spring to mind who aren't uptight or obsessional and even have their friends' kids to stay. If I thought I could go into my forties with a relationship as strong as theirs it would almost be worth giving up the idea of kids for good. But not quite.



My scrutiny of child-rearing couples only exacerbates the dilemma. On the one hand most derive great pleasure from their children; on the other hand the women give up an awful lot. For the professionally ambitious, reconciling their/our greatest dream with that degree of selfishness seems an all but insurmountable challenge. My greatest feat of altruism this year was to walk an arthritic woman to the tube station. I can hardly see myself giving up invitations to the movies to stay home and be spattered with egg. If I'm honest, I'm also afraid to encourage my childish side. Part of me is just

dying for an excuse to get out the dolls' house; if it became addictive I could lose my place in the world. Encounters with the small people themselves inspire me to extremes of hormone-fuelled ecstasy or homicidal rage. Recently I met a couple whose two-year-old girl is so delightful — placid, cheerful, curious — that I'm inclined to stay away in case I go home and have one of those "accidents" that befall intelligent women when they near the end of child-bearing age. The antidote, of course, is an evening — or even ten minutes — in the company of those four-year-olds whose parents believe "Justin

Surviving in the shallows

Being "thrown in at the deep end" is a recommended introduction to some activities; it cannot be advised for teaching children to swim. You can easily identify even adults who have been terrorised into swimming this way. They use "new hairdo stroke", in which the head is craned out of the water as though protecting a pearl.

For a number of people, swimming is a back-pocket skill: something you keep concealed about your person with your AA card in case of emergencies. Such folk may not have visited a public pool for years. Gone are the slipper baths of yore, where you could hire a piece of soap as well as a towel. Gone, too, are the corridors of dangerous, damp municipal tiling.

You used to enter the swimming area by way of a chilly footbath, a kind of compulsory disinfectant minestrone, awash with athlete's foot spores and old plaster. Now, a warm shower welcomes you to vaulted domes in makes-the-people-happy primary colours, wave machines, disco music, fountains and a slide in the shape of a frog.

Remember those half-doored wooden cubicles that flanked the pool — women to port, men to starboard — where bad boys had poked out the knotting to peer at ladies? Now there are unisex booths and family rooms, where your children's towels and underwear can get ruddled up with those of other families.

So, it's in at the shallow end with you. In fact, there does only appear to be a shallow end. So much has been spent on funishing that there seems little left over for water, and you are pushed to find a stretch of water deep enough to do a length of dignified breaststroke. Not that this will matter when you accompany your children. You don't swim, you just get wet. Your hair will be splashed by the enthusiastic efforts of young swimmers and the water in the "ducking pool" only comes up to your crotch. For those of us brought up on cool pools, the water seems uncomfortably warm, like bath water — someone else's bath water.

Other hazards exist. I once remarked to an instructor that the chlorine in the water really stings one's eyes. "It's not the chlorine that stings your eyes ...," he said. And I shall not



DAVINA LLOYD

explain why he was standing at the edge of his under-ones class with what appeared to be a shrimping net.

As a parent it is difficult to instruct your own children in swimming. Your main function is to huff up the armbands and respond to a lot of "Watch me, mum," as they jump in from the side or whiz down the water chute.

The best option is to buy qualified instruction for your kids. They can enjoy the benefits of cork floats and inflatable costumes, while someone else teaches them how to turn dog-paddle into Olympic-standard backstroke.

Your job is to sew on the badges. First, the beginner's badge, which has a penguin on it and is awarded to anyone who attends the class in a bathing costume. Next, the improver's badge, for anyone who actually gets into the water. Then follow badges for five, ten, 15 metres, all the way up to Crossing the Dardanelles badge. I wondered at one point that my son could stay afloat, given his trunks were weighted down with so many badges.

Professional lessons fulfil their function. Your children will learn to leap off high boards, collect objects off the bottom as well as any pearl diver, participate in synchronised displays and swim safely unaided.

If you want to do the "Watch me mum" bit, you can view proceedings from the overlooking licensed bar which replaces the old slatted spectator benches. And if you want to stay completely dry, become a swimming pool attendant. Wearing extremely brief shorts and flip-flops, they stay bone dry on the sidelines chatting each other up, while the children in the water get on just swimmingly.

Tall tales made to measure

An original bedtime story can be highly satisfying for teller and listener

A LONG day is ending. The children are inching their way to bed. Adult time beckons their parents. But the cherubs have one last, insistent demand: "Tell us a story."

They won't be fobbed off

with a reading of *Postman Pat* or *Burglar Bill*. Only a parental original will do. Your enthusiasm for creativity has come home to roost.

Storytelling makes extraordinary demands on parents and carers. It requires us to dust down our child selves while honing our adult narrative skills.

Now there is a new book from America, *Storytelling and the Art of the Imagination* (Element Books, £7.99, published June 25), encouraging us to make up stories for both children and adults.

Nancy Mellon, the author, identifies the recurring, seductive themes of a good story, and reminds us of the deep satisfaction it can give teller and hearer alike.

I asked nine-year-old Mark what he liked about being told stories. "They're magical because after you've read a book, or had it read to you, you know what's going to happen. But a story which is being made up is completely new."

Adrienne Katz, the author of many books on parents and children, says: "In making up a story, you place your child's experience centrally: it's totally tailored to their taste and humour." Made-up stories can include special requests: my two-year-old already insists on playing a starring role in my stories, whose heroines must bear her name. Stories like this increasingly become collaborative efforts, with the child eventually becoming confident enough to originate stories itself.

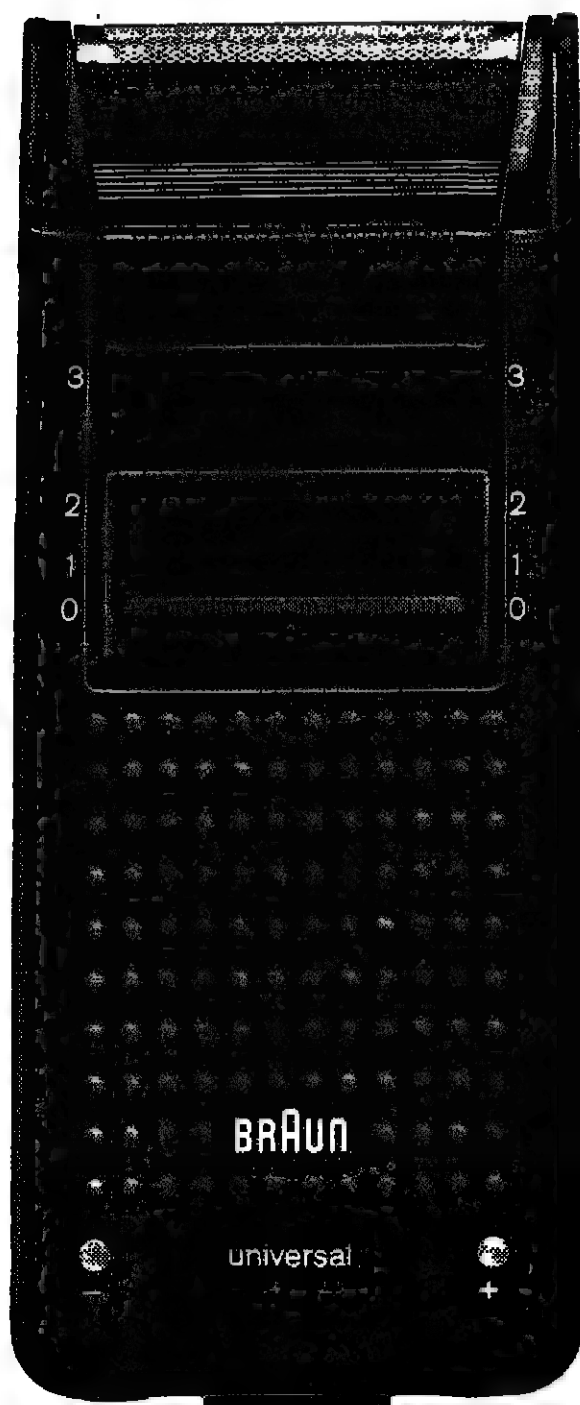
Ms Katz told her children an on-going serial, with new episodes nightly. A giraffe travelled round London in an open-topped bus, ended up in hospital, and was nursed back to health by a four-year-old girl. "One of the most important elements is that the animal has a friend who is obviously your child in disguise. The child is always more resourceful than the adults."

Ms Mellon invites storytellers to use old themes and archetypes. Your characters will go on a journey, impelled by a quest or wish. They may suddenly fall like Alice down the rabbit hole or rise (magic carpets are handy, flying to the moon is a staple). Mountains will be climbed and lakes traversed, dragons and witches vanquished, woods and castles escaped from. Objects are lost and refound.

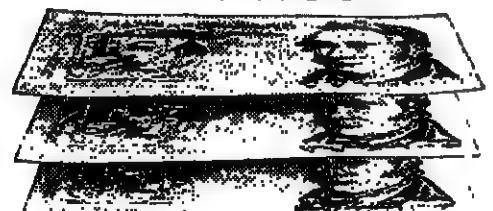
Storytelling should not become another "ought", reluctantly but guiltily added to our good parenting list. Says Ms Katz: "It's easier than you think — you don't have to be a creative genius to do it."

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QUESTIONS

1. Who was the first to successfully fly across the Channel between the UK and France?

2. What was the first TV series to be broadcast before 10pm?

3. What is the banking Paris called?

• Conditions of entry: The questions are to be answered by the first person to answer them correctly. The questions are to be answered by the first person to answer them correctly. The questions are to be answered by the first person to answer them correctly.

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MEDIA MOLE

JONATHAN Powell, the controller of BBC1, has long harboured a plan to run the BBC's second favourite home-grown soap, *Casualty*, twice a week instead of its current once.

Casualty's nine million or so viewers were to be given a second helping of dramatic events as much-needed competition for ITV's *The Bill*, had Mr Powell's plan gone through. But it did not. The reason has nothing to do with the prime minister, or others at Number 10 Downing Street, despite the rumour circulating at Television Centre. It is thought that the idea was dismissed by John Birt, the BBC's director-general designate, who is believed to want to reposition the corporation more up-market.

Such a difference of approach to BBC soaps has left Mr Powell's friends wondering whether he will be able to stand the pressure at the helm of the BBC's flagship television channel once Mr Birt takes over complete control next year.

CYNICS and sceptics have been dumbfounded. In spite of the sneers which rang round The Groucho Club at its launch, *The Oldie* magazine is now selling between 35,000 and 37,000 copies a fortnight, after just five months and 10 editions. That is more — dare it be said? — than even its proprietors hoped at a cover price of £1.40.



Richard Ingrams: surprised?

Exactly who is buying the magazine is not quite clear yet, so *The Oldie* plans to run a small readership survey — in large type, no doubt. Perhaps one reason for the magazine's success is that it has at least one member of staff who is under 60. Emma Soames is the deputy editor or, as editor Richard Ingrams prefers to call her, senior matron.

ATTEMPTS to find a chief executive for the new ITV central scheduling and commissioning unit have not proved quite as easy as some had hoped.

A short list of head-hunted candidates has been drawn up and, so rumour has it, includes James Gairdner, former chief executive of TVS, the ITV contractor which lost its franchise. Originally, some ITV mandarins had hoped to lure Michael Grade away from Channel 4 to run the whole operation; now the job is split in two and no one wants the chief executive post or the aggravation of 15 different ITV bosses. With a question mark over the post, the person to decide exactly what will appear on the ITV, a network director, is unlikely to be found before the end of the year.

GEOFFREY WANSELL

Mad magazine has been attacking hypocrisy and hyperbole for 40 years. It is a sane reaction, says Joseph Connolly

The prominent obituaries devoted to the American publisher, William M. Gaines, earlier this month alerted many to the fact that his most famous creation, *Mad* magazine, is — 40 years on — still alive and kicking. Maybe not kicking quite so energetically as during the 1960s, when in America each issue sold more than two million copies and the British edition topped 80,000, but sales are still around half those figures.

There is something so comfortingly dated about *Mad* that one feels it somehow ought to have petered out sometime in the mid 1970s. Maybe this is its secret — simply refusing to change. The magazine has blazed on, the quality of the artwork (if not always the wit) remaining high.

Mad truly is, as its slogan runs, number one in a field of one: a humorous magazine which pre-dates *Private Eye*, out-sold (and out-lasted) *Punch* and makes *Viz* look crudely produced and ill-drawn. In an age when magazines ritually blame their demise upon declining advertising revenue, *Mad* has consistently refused any advertising at all: what look like glossy ads for whisky or cigarettes are in fact crudely accurate lampoons.

Mad was founded more or less by accident: Gaines had been profitably publishing horror comics throughout the 1940s, and probably would have continued to do so had not America suffered one of its periodic fits of puritanism, and they were more or less censured out of business. Gaines and his best cartoonist, Harvey Kurtzman, came up with the idea of a magazine whose initial brief was to satirise the very comics they had been forbidden to produce: it was entitled *Tales Calculated to Drive You Mad* (Humor in a Jugular Vein) and later modified to the snappier *Mad*. Every icon of American comic book art was mercilessly spoofed: Archie, L'il



In a jocular vein: the late William M. Gaines, publisher of *Mad*, and the debut, in 1956, of Alfred E. Neumann, the magazine's mascot



Orphan Annie — even Mickey Mouse, who was rechristened Mickey Rodent, and sported possibly the earliest manifestation of designer stubble.

The magazine has hardly altered in appearance since issue 27 (April 1956) featured the gap-toothed, gap-brained, freckled, bat-eared and grinning carrot-headed loony called Alfred E. Neuman. Neuman has appeared on virtually every cover since, playing roles as varied as George Washington, a Teenage Mutant Hero Turtle and an Italian organ grinder (with King Kong as the monkey). Every year, proud parents send in photographs of children who they imagine resemble him. In 1960, *Mad* published a widely circulated photograph of a ten-year-old Prince Charles. This elicited a letter on what looked like Buckingham Palace notepaper: "Dear Sirs, no it isn't a bit — not the least little bit like me. So jolly well now it See! Charles P."

The British edition of *Mad* has been edited and — until last year — published by Ron Leitchford since

the mid 1970s. Fleetway Editions now handle publishing and distribution but Mr Leitchford still oversees everything else. One task is to commission four new covers per year, because in the United States only eight 48-page editions are published annually, whereas here we have a monthly 32-page issue. One recent British cover depicted John Major and the caption "Congratulations on remaining prime minister — we were with you all the way"; the rear cover showed Nell Kinnock ("Congratulations on becoming prime minister — we were with you all the way") — but then *Mad* was always apolitical: every four years Alfred E. Neuman runs for president under the slogan "You Could Do Worse. You Always Have!"

"We sometimes substitute British articles," Mr Leitchford says, "if something is just too American." The mainstay of the magazine is the monthly film spoof, although because most box office smashes are so crazy to begin with — *Dick Tracy*, *Hook*, *Batman* — it is getting harder to send them up. *Mad* is published in 14 languages (including Chinese) and editors in each country decide what to include and how to promote it. "Either the Dutch or Norwegian edition had a condom on the cover recently," Mr Leitchford says. "The *Mad* touch was that it was stapled on. 'Could it happen here?' 'I doubt it.' On grounds of taste? 'To a degree. And Smith's, of course. And the price of condoms.'"

The magazine is unique and hugely under-rated — it will continue to refuse advertising, and continue to mock the advertisers (although, to date, none has ever sued); it will continue too to lance the hypocrisy and hyperbole within society, the arts and business. It is funny, certainly, but on a deeper level — and it dawns upon you after reading only a very few issues — *Mad* is truly sane.

Every icon of American comic book art was mercilessly spoofed

Another problem is to persuade W.H. Smith not to place *Mad* on the top shelf and not to dump it with *Beano* and *Dandy*. So just what is the target audience for *Mad*? "We don't have one. Bill Gaines was always asked that — he said his target audience was himself. I receive letters from

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Getting there is half the fear

Foreign trips generate good headlines, but political leaders must mind their backs while they are away

PRESS WATCH

Bernard Ingham



Dictators are thought to have more trouble with foreign travel than democratic leaders. Those who travel are often thought foolhardy, and the media keep a close watch on developments back at the ranch. Those who stay at home when expected abroad are presumed to be in political trouble.

By contrast, presidents and prime ministers of the democracies can travel safely in the knowledge that they will not be pushed out while they are away. After all, they are legitimate.

Broadly, these assumptions still seem justified, although the debate continues over whether Margaret Thatcher would have retained office had she not attended an international conference in Paris during the Tory leadership election in November 1990.

Her critics seem to assume that the press would have forsaken any suggestion that, by staying at home, she was running scared, and that she would have lost her time in London to grub up votes. Neither would have done any such thing. But that is the way.

The point is that democratic leaders are gloriously free to roam the world without fearing for their political lives. Occasionally, they might even indulge in a little international adventure to divert attention from their domestic problems. Mrs Thatcher's second election victory is attributed to the Falklands campaign ten years ago. I have been (centrally) accused of winning the third for her with her media triumph in the Soviet Union in 1987.

International travel is not, however, without its problems for democratic leaders, especially now that technology has shrunk the globe. For one thing, there is far too much of it. George Bush is in trouble for alleged over-in-

dulgence. British ministers are forever on planes to and from the wider Europe. Those who have never experienced a British presidency of the EC ain't seen nothing yet. Summits are two a penny — EC, Nato, ECSC, G7, Commonwealth and environment.

Then there is the need — at least in civilised Britain — to show the folks back home that you are not just swanning around. While civil service rules laid it down in my day that no serious work should be done after a long flight without rest, prime ministers hit the ground running and undertake grossly overloaded programmes. They also fly back overnight, as John Major did on Saturday from Brazil, to save working time or to get to another engagement. Or just to rub in how diligent they are.

While they are abroad their attention is divided between domestic events and international diplomacy. Journalists travelling with the prime minister keep in close touch with their offices in London and expect instant reactions to any event of real or imagined significance.

Satellite communications mean that film of his reaction is immediately bounced back home, whereas in the early 1980s I was still employed as a courier by the BBC and ITN to carry film cassettes back to Heathrow. Consequently, some domestic events can dominate coverage of a foreign tour — as last week's entirely understandable ministerial hand-wringing over Maastricht disturbed Mr Major's progress to Rio.

The mice will play when the cat's away, but it is a poor prime minister who cannot win easy headlines back home about his long distant crushing of dissent or even of revolts-that-never-were. Hence last Thursday "Major calls Cabinet doubters to heel" (*The Daily Telegraph*); "Major reads the riot act" (*Daily Mail*); "Euro-sceptic ministers forced to back PM" (*The Guardian*); and "Major cools down Euro-backing turmoil" (*Daily Express*).

Securing such macho coverage was like taking candy from a baby when Mrs Thatcher swung her handbag in foreign parts. But it did not dispose of the problem. After Nigel Lawson, Nicholas Ridley and Sir Geoffrey Howe had departed over Europe, Mrs Thatcher came to wonder who would resign when she next landed at Heathrow. It turned out to be herself.

John Major is light years away from such traumas. Which brings me back to dictators. They lead a simple life when in doubt, don't travel. For leaders of democracies, getting through a day abroad is much more complicated. "Supporters" and "opponents" make sure their political security is less than comfortable, as Mr Major can testify. The EC will dog his travels this year, and for a long time to come.

Too popular to be good?

Radios 1 and 2 are under attack, but fighting back.

Melinda

Wittstock asks their leaders for the reasons

Whenever a Tory think-tank fires off a missile on the future of the BBC, Radios 1 and 2 are always among the first targets. Their proposed fate? To bite one of three different bullets: advertising, privatisation or closure.

Those who would resort to such measures cannot fathom why the BBC should spend licence money on broadcasting the endless diet of pop hits, easy listening and inane DJ-speak to be found on just about every commercial station in the country.

The controllers of Radio 1 and Radio 2, however, wonder how the opinion-formers can arrive at their conclusions without having listened to either station. "They all listen to Radios 3 and 4 and don't hear what Radios 1 and 2 are broadcasting," says Francis Line, controller of Radio 2. "They just don't realise how distinctive we are from the commercial stations."

Johnny Beertling, the controller of Radio 1, says: "It's just typical of people, even some in the BBC, who haven't listened to the network in 20 years. Radio 1 has changed enormously; it fulfils a public service every bit as much as Radio 3 in backing new musicians, broadcasting live concerts and producing documentaries."

As both stations approach their 25th anniversaries, on September 30, and the government prepares its green paper on the future of the BBC, the controllers are determined to get their message across to those who otherwise would not listen. The networks have separately appointed an advertising agency, Ark, to devise campaigns that will win over the sceptics. Radio 1 and Radio 2 will each devote just 3 per cent of their respective annual budgets of £31 million and £48 million to advertising.

From September, readers of *The Economist*, *The Spectator* and quality newspapers expect a few public service messages from Radio 1. "Why should people who like rock and pop have commercials forced on them any more than people who like classical music or talk radio?" Mr Beertling says.

Radio 2, which is seen as being the more vulnerable of the two, if only because Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC chairman, is said to be a critic, plans a much less subtle approach. "We need to get on to rooftops and shout about what we do," Ms Line says. "Until now we've been remiss in selling ourselves. Our listeners know we perform an important public service, providing news, social action programmes, documentaries, live concerts and music patronage that our commercial rivals cannot rival; but the politicians don't want to hear that. We have to get our message across, and loudly. Even on the backs of buses."

Arguments over the respec-



"Why should people who like rock and pop have commercials forced on them any more than people who like classical music or talk radio?"

Johnny Beertling



"We need to shout about what we do. Our listeners know we perform a public service, but the politicians who will decide our future do not"

Francis Line

tive futures of Radios 1 and 2

are at the centre of the debate

about public service broadcasting.

No other BBC service

inspires such sharp disagreement

between those who believe

the BBC should provide some-

thing for everyone. The former

view has it that the BBC

should abandon pop music

for the more populist outlook

of Radios 1 and 2 — with

respective audiences of 15

million and 9 million a week

— are as much a part of the

public service ethos as Radio 4.

Radio 1 recently asked Tony

Ingham, station manager of

Birmingham's Buzz FM, and

one of the founders of Piccadilly

Radio in Manchester, to

draw up a business plan for

the network were it to be

privatised and funded by

advertising and sponsorship.

A commercial Radio 1, he said,

would survive as a profitable

station only if it reduced news

to "rip and read" headlines,

cut out live concerts, drastically

reduced session time given

over to new musicians, re-

placed all producers with a

computer-controlled playlist,

played more Top 40 hits and

broadcast documentaries and

social action programmes only

if they were sponsored.

Mr Ingham's findings

spark volumes about the wide

gap between Radio 1 and

local commercial rivals, as well

as anything the second na-

tional commercial station, to be

launched early next year by

Virgin and TV-am, is likely to

offer listeners.

Radio 1 does much that the

independents cannot finan-

cially sustain: 1,000 hours of

studio time is devoted each

year to recording new bands;

4,000 hours a year is given

over to live concerts; there are

six social action campaigns on

issues ranging from racism to

suicide and sexuality; and an

annual rotation of more than

100 hours of documentaries.

The station says it also broad-

casts a broader range of music

than its competitors, playing

1,400 different songs each

week, compared to the com-

mercial stations' 300 to 400.

"The commercial stations

just follow the record sales

charts but we lead the charts,

breaking new ground by

being the first to play a band,

sometimes before it has even

signed with a record com-

pany," Mr Beertling says.

Radio 2, which has seen its

audience drop by 5 per cent in

five years and is more vulner-

able to competition from local

"golden oldies" stations as well

as the new Classic FM national

station, to be launched this

autumn, deploys similar

arguments in its favour. In a

BBC document called *Serving*

the Public, Ms Line argues

that her rivals could not hope

to match Radio 2's arts, social

action and religious output, as

well as its £8 million-a-year live

music budget and patronage of

the BBC Big Band and BBC

Concert Orchestra. She

adds that the station's news

coverage often rivals that of

Radio 4. "On the day of the

Whitehall bomb in January,

our 10am, 11am and noon

summaries were all extended

to bring reports from the

scene, eyewitness accounts,

assessments and reactions.

Radio 4, by contrast, was able

to accommodate only one brief

newflash and a 30-second

expansion of one summary

during the same time span."

Ms Line has tough words

for anyone dismissing Radio 2

as no more than a syrupy

surfeit of Mantovani and

Johnny Mathis. "Radio 2 is

not just middle of the road

music," she says. "It is about

jazz, folk, big bands and even

some classical."

Defending the easy-

listening part of

Radio 2's output,

Ms Line says: "If

we accept that public service

radio is for the totality of

licence fee payers and not just

for minorities, then it follows

that Radio 2 must be a

provider of popular music.

Otherwise, by the end of the

century, BBC Radio would be

marginalised into specific ar-

as with an audience share of a

few per cent. While the func-

tion of commercial radio is to

deliver audiences to its adver-

tisers, the purpose of Radio 2

is to serve its listeners."

However, efforts to woo a

younger audience earlier this

year, with format changes

including a drastic reduction

in the number of pre-1950s

songs, seem to have alienated

a lot of loyal listeners without

attracting many new ones.

The debate about Radios 1

and 2, indeed the very survival

of the BBC as its royal charter

comes up for renewal in 1996,

will run for the next two to

three years. As both networks

plan their silver anniversaries,

and Radio 2 conducts the

biggest outside broadcast in

radio history, transmitting 15

hours of live music from 33

locations on June 28 for

National Music Day, Ms Line

and Mr Beertling will both be

hoping that the government is

listening.

Right off the beaten track

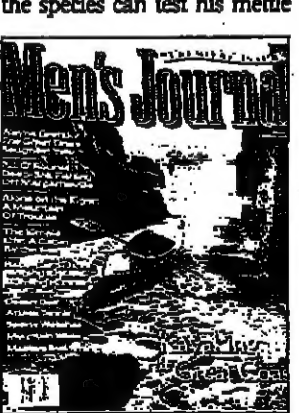
Men's Journal is hoping that its readers will take a serious interest in adventure and sport, rather than sitting back in their armchairs and reading about it

Twenty-five years ago, lead guitarist like Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton acted out an important male fantasy role, making sweet music and supposedly having their pick of every woman in sight. Now *Straight Arrow*, the American publisher of *Rolling Stone*, rock's original counter-culture magazine which developed into a multi-million dollar publishing phenomenon, has defined the preoccupations of the grown up male rock fan. In the United States it has launched a "brother" publication to *Rolling Stone* and aimed at men who are "interested in adventure, participatory sports, travel and fitness".

Suddenly, it seems, publishers on both sides of the Atlantic are discovering that man is a sporting animal. It is impossible to pick up a men's magazine in Britain without reading a story on Chris Lewis (GQ this month) or Gary Lineker (*Esquire*'s current cover). Next month GQ devotes a whole issue to sport. For *Him* recently announced that it was to spin off its *Total Sports* supplement into a separate monthly next year. Two weeks ago a new glossy sports magazine, *Sports Quarterly*, was launched by contract publishers TMP. It claims to have sold 70,000 copies at a £2.50. After dabbling with style and sex, men's general interest publishers have discovered a third "s" — sport — to continue the momentum in one of the few growing sectors of the periodical market.

But then Britain has no established general interest sports magazine. One of the more interesting Maxwell launches, the glossy *Sportsweek*, failed after five months in 1987 — largely the victim of sport's excellent coverage in the national papers. In the US the situation is different. There are no national papers and 38-year-old *Sports Illustrated*, owned by Time-Warner, sweeps the board in publishing general sports features. Its typical formula sells 3.15 million copies

a week. In mid-July, beginning with an Olympic preview issue, it will test market in Britain, where for ten weeks, 80,000 copies of the magazine will be available on newsstands. One only has to see *Sports Illustrated*'s sought-after annual swimsuit issue to realise it is a men's magazine.



Men's Journal: first issue

against the elements. *Mens Journal* editor John Rasmus says he is trying to produce a magazine "relevant to a generation which grew up with *Rolling Stone*". His readers are expected to get the same kicks from white-water rafting or potholing as from listening to the *Rolling Stones* at Altamont.

Currently published quarterly, *Mens Journal* plans to go monthly next year when, according to circulation director Howard Katz, it is also likely to be distributed in Britain. So successful proved the first issue, carrying a May-June date line, that the initial 135,000 copies sold out, and an extra 65,000 have been printed. This highly professional production combines the best of *Rolling Stone*'s presentation with articles by fashionable writers now dis-

covering the great outdoors — P.J. O'Rourke goes deep-sea fishing 18 miles off the Florida coast with an anti-seasickness patch taped behind his ear. One of the features of the magazine is a service element, informing readers not only where to kayak, but what equipment and clothing are necessary.

"What do men really want?"

Mr Rasmus and editor-in-

chief Jann Wenner ask rhetori-

cally in their joint editorial in

the first issue. "We think they

want to climb a few moun-

tains, build the house of their

dreams, have a first serve and

perhaps play a few memorable

rounds of golf with their

father's."

Mr Wenner has committed

two years and \$10 million in

capital to developing the ma-

gazine he wants. It is all a far

cry from the early days of *Rolling*

Stone in San Francisco: 5,000

copies of the first issue were

sold. An early promotion was a

clip for smoking marijuana.

But as the love generation

grew older and richer, *Rolling*

Stone became a prime medium

for advertisers. After a dip

in the early 1980s, it now sells

1.2 million copies each for-

night, contributing revenue of

\$110 million a year to Mr

Wenner's privately owned

Straight Arrow Publishers. Ac-

cording to the *Wall Street*

Partners in progress

High-flying graduates aged up to 28, and with a good degree in a specified subject, can put themselves on the fast track to successful careers in industry and business by joining the Teaching Company Scheme (TCS).

The TCS sets up and runs partnerships between industry and academic centres, linked by one or more graduate "associates". They spend two years working in a company on projects vital to its future but beyond its present resources. The company draws on the expertise, knowledge and skill not only of the associates but also of the academic centre. This year marks the 1,000th successful placement.

In addition to gaining valuable experience and training from the government-sponsored scheme, the associate is well placed to start a successful career: at the end of the two-year scheme, many associates are appointed to middle management and a good proportion achieve senior management early.

TCS has now been extended beyond the original areas of science and technology, to include industrial design, business, marketing and psychology. "Technology alone is too narrow," Dr Ed Robson, the TCS director, says. "All business subjects must be looked at, including selling, marketing and design."

Plymouth Business School, for example, is selecting its first associates in marketing. One will be employed by a small firm making

Sally Watts describes a scheme giving graduates a head start in business

kitchen cabinets, which until now have been built into homes put up by leading house builders; but the recession means the company is looking to enter the retail trade.

A second associate will join a firm making research instruments; this has obtained much of its business from exhibitions, but now needs a proper marketing strategy.

"Associates will enhance their career, and their CV, by being involved — not just as sales reps, but in devising and implementing marketing strategy," says Jim Pearce, senior lecturer in business operations. "Marketing is an essential innovation for the south-west. Many small firms don't know how to market themselves."

David Clark was one of the TCS's first marketing associates. He took a BSc Hons at Aston University in business with a marketing option and, at 28, has just completed his work for Incastec Associates, a marine electronics company at Ringwood, Hampshire. The firm also employed an engineering associate — "two excellent post-graduates," according to Harold Whitfield, the managing director.

Mr Clark's role was to establish a marketing function. He worked with distributors, assessed company needs and marketed the products, with guidance from a

Bournemouth Polytechnic marketing specialist. In addition, he has developed the company's management information systems.

Although 65 per cent of associates are offered permanent jobs, this may be less likely with a small company or in a recession. Mr Clark, now job-hunting from his home at Newcastle-under-Lyme, says: "In realistic conditions, a TCS programme will stand you in good stead for a job. You are given more experience and involvement than in most jobs, and greater responsibility is thrust upon you quickly."

Durham University Business School has also developed a marketing liaison with the TC. It has been working with smaller firms keen to trade with Europe, but daunted by the export process, so Bill Ferguson, director of DUBS international business group, felt it would help to "put in a pair of hands".

Jenny Morgan, an early associate in the scheme, is a Keele graduate in French and psychology (a specialist with increasing industrial uses). Four years ago, she joined Canford Audio, at Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Her remit was first, to take her firm into France and second, to establish an export marketing department. The first she achieved by

examining the various options — joint venture, agency and so on — then setting up a sales and servicing company at Strasbourg; today it has a £350,000 turnover. The home-based export marketing department, started in 1988, now has five staff.

When Miss Morgan's association ended, she became marketing manager. The company then took on a second associate, Anne Tattersall, to create an outlet in Germany; this will open in November. Miss Tattersall, aged 25, has a European business degree with marketing, and a German diploma in business studies. She is now Canford Audio's marketing executive.

The two women have seen the company's export turnover increase from 2 to 20 per cent. Both have passed the Institute of Export exams, and Miss Morgan, 28, has also passed those of the Institute of Marketing. "The programme enabled us to recruit high-calibre graduates and we have benefited from the very close tie-up with DUBS," says Hugh Morgan Williams, the company chairman.

TC associates now have an additional advantage: they can use their programmes towards a higher degree through the Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (CATS), which gives credit rating for completed work and training experience.

● The Teaching Company Scheme, Hillside House, 79, London Street, Faringdon, Oxon, SN7 8AA.



On-screen success: Jenny Morgan is now a marketing manager



DIRECTIONS Week '92, which is supported by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and runs from June 30 to July 4 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, north London, will combine two career fairs this year. The first, The London Graduate Recruitment Fair (June 30 to July 2), is organised by London University's careers advisory service. It will offer guidance for all new graduates on job opportunities and postgraduate courses, from more than 100 exhibitors already booked.

The second, The Schools' Fair, on July 3 and 4, is for school leavers going into higher education or employment, and will provide counselling on degree choice, university and vocational training programmes. Seminars and workshops will enable all students to meet representatives from business and colleges.

● Hotline: Schools' Fair 071-782 6872, London Graduate Recruitment Fair 0800 252183.

071-481 4481

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

FAX 071-782 7828



GOVERNMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

The Government of the Cayman Islands has a vacancy for the position of:

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The Auditor General, who is head of the Cayman Islands Audit Office, is directly responsible to the Governor for the auditing of all Government accounts.

Applicants should hold a relevant professional qualification and should have at least 10 years experience, including a period at senior administration level.

Salary will be C\$ 59,076 pr annum tax free (C\$ = US\$ 1.20). Benefits include air passages, medical care and a Contracted Officers Supplement of 15% of salary paid monthly. Appointment will be on a two year contract.

Application forms, together with recruitment notes, are available from:

The Cayman Islands Government Office
Trevor House
100 Brompton Road
London SW3 1EX Telephone: 071 823 7613

Completed application form with a curriculum vitae should be returned by 3 July 1992.

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Informal enquiries may be made to the Rector, Professor Frank Gould on 081 849 3630.

Further details and application form from Personnel Services, Polytechnic of East London, Romford Road, London E15 4LZ. Tel. 081 590 7722 ext 4321. Please quote ref. no. 18/N/92. Closing date 26 June 1992.

The Polytechnic is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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For further details and an application form please write to: Lydia Bailey, Regional Personnel Officer, The National Trust, Devon Regional Office, Kilberton House, Broadclyst, Exeter, Devon EX5 3LE.

Ref: NTS 3/92. Closing date for application 10.7.92.

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For an application form and information pack, contact the Personnel Manager, St Nicholas House, Aberdeen, AB9 1AY, Tel 0224-276276 ext 2156 or 624048. Closing date Friday 3 July. This post is open to job sharing and applications from disabled persons are particularly welcome.



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CV's should be returned to Division of Human Resources, Northern Regional Health Authority, Benfield Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 4PY by 30 June 1992.

This Authority operates a No Smoking Policy.



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Visitors: 0800 252183

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July 4th 10.00-17.00

For further details Tel: 071-782 6872

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CHANNEL 4

6.00 Channel 4 Daily (1737593)
9.25 Schools (84881500)
9.20 The Parliament Programme presented by Anne Perkins (29968)
12.30 Science Daily. News and analysis from the world's financial
centre (844719)
1.00 Sesame Street. Entertaining pre-school learning series (r) (32974)
2.00 Film: Happy Land (1938, b/w) starring Sonia Herie and Cesar
Romero. Musical comedy about a young Norwegian woman who
follows a caddish bandleader to America under the impression that
they were engaged. Directed by Roy Del Ruth (909245)
3.55 Subway. Animation backed by music from the Clash (4202142)
4.00 The Food File. Drew Smith investigates how the rise of synthetic
flavours has eroded the appreciation of natural tastes (r). (Teletext)
(c) (968)
4.30 Fifteen to Nine. Fast-moving knock-out general knowledge quiz
presented by William G. Stewart (652)
5.00 Pushing the Boat Out. A Breath of White Water. Two Britons and
a Canadian tackle Idaho's white water rivers (r) (8177)
5.30 Beat That. Youngsters tackle challenges set by Mike Scarslet (332)
6.00 Treasure Hunt. Annabel Croft scours the beautiful Peak District in
her search for hidden treasure. Last in the series (r) (49210)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Weather (890581)
7.50 Comment (155806)
8.00 Borderlands. The first of a new series of six programmes about
regions of Europe affected by economic and political change, told
through the words and experiences of border people themselves
beginning with the citizens of Catalonia in north-east Spain.
(Teletext) (7061)
8.30 Pat Man in Argentina. On the final leg of his journey Tom Vernon,
the colossus of roads, cycles through Patagonia (r). (Teletext) (3528)
9.00 Rear Window: Cities of Salt. The emotional arts series
continues with a profile of the Arab Abdullah Nuri and author
of Cities of Salt, a series of the linked novels on the effects of the
discovery of oil on the Arab world (107245)
9.45 Short and Curious: The Kitchen Child. The odours from a kitchen
smell prove irresistible for a French duke and his valet. Starring Paul



Fast foodies: Billie Whitelaw and Madhur Jaffrey (9.00pm)

9.00 Firm Friends. ● **CHOICE:** The friends of Lou Wakefield's four-part drama set in the North East are Rose (Billie Whitelaw) and Jayshree (Madhur Jaffrey), their delecting women. Rose is a well-heeled suburban housewife whose husband, David Foulds, suddenly abandons her with only £2,000 in the bank. Jayshree's husband is a cab driver with a dodgy car and they have fallen behind with the mortgage. A they struggle to make ends meet, the two women decide to join forces in a fast food business. *Firm Friends* is part comedy, part social drama, with an implicit feminist message about women coping in adversity and a determination to give sympathetic treatment to the less fortunate. The two women are certainly too good to be true (some of the male characters excepted), there are hints of more disturbing times ahead (Oracle) (9581)

10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Nicholas Owen. (Oracle) **Weekend (2205) 10.30 Thames News** (458887)

10.40 7 Up — Japan.

● **CHOICE:** Granada Television's ambitious documentary project which has already taken in Britain, the United States and the former Soviet Union now moves to Japan. The format is unchanged. Seven year-olds, chosen from a spread of backgrounds, are enticed before the cameras and invited to talk about their families, their likes and dislikes, their hopes and their ambitions. They will be interviewed again at seven-yearly intervals. These Japanese children emerge as a notably articulate bunch, often appealing and cheeky with it, and able to field questions that would floor people several times their age. Perhaps a cast of 12 is too big to keep tabs on but there is much good material. Reassuringly the majority of kids rule out another war, though if only one were to see the enemy, as before, at the United States. (Oracle) (544968)

11.40 Prisoner: Cliché Block B. More caged women drama (823887)

12.30am Video View presented by Mariella Frostrup (39920)

1.30 The Equalizer. Edward Woodward stars as McCall, the ageing avenger, in this adventure on the trail of missing information that the KGB are interested in (i) (98217)

2.30 Donatucci. A discussion on buff bathing (395678)

3.00 60 Minutes. American news magazine (137676)

4.30 The Gold Bug. A drama about a boy's search for Captain Kidd's buried treasure (30456)

5.30 Tim Morning News with Tim Nelson. (94123). Ends at 6.00



0.00 Film: *White Room* (1990) starring Maurice Godin, Kate Nelligan, Margot Kidder and Sheila McCreary. This Cinema Canada season 10 production is a chilling drama about the relationship between a voyeur who witnesses a murder and three disparate women. Directed by Patricia Rozema. (Teletext) (141239)

1.45 Empty Nest: Comedy series starring Richard Mulligan as a widowed medical man. With a guest appearance by Golden Girls' Rue McClanahan (174522)

2.15am The Schoenberg Cycle. The last in the series focuses on the Schoenberg Quarter's tutor, violinist Eugene Lehner (338433)

1.15 Film: *Crime Over London* (1936, b/w) starring Basil Sydney as a Chicago gangster who arrives in London with his mob, intending to rob a department store. Directed by Alfred Zerkler (115891). Ends at 2.35

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(3) 6.30-7.00 Block

GLORIA
 London expts: 6:25pm-7:00 Anglia
 News (712448) 7:30-8:00 Countrywide
 (39)

ORDER
 London expts: 3:25pm-3:55 Sons
 and Daughters (3874687) 5:10-5:40 Home
 and Away (3297504) 6:00 Lookaround Tuesday
 (363) 6:30-7:00 Blockbusters (555) 7:30-
 8:00 The Mirror (5240) 8:15 The Country
 Life (425245) 8:50-9:00 Good Health
 (3650307) 2:25-6:00 Minutes (1764181) 3:20
 3:30-8:00 Night Shift (701524) 4:15
 The Lock in the Mirror (599291) 5:20-5:30
 Joinfinder (6285253)

CENTRAL
 London expts: 2:50pm-3:15 The
 Young Doctors (7513132) 3:25-3:55 Home
 and Away (3875236) 6:25-7:00 Central News
 (214448) 7:40-8:00 The Tuesday Special
 (363)

HTV WEST
 As London expts: 1:50pm-2:10 The
 Young Doctors (68900142) 3:25-3:55
 The Young Doctors (3875236) 5:10-5:40
 Home and Away (3297504) 6:30-7:00 Block-
 busters (555) 7:30-8:00 Good Health
 (329)

HTV WALES
 As HTV West expts: 6:00pm-6:30 Wales
 As 7:30-8:00 A Welsh Life

TSW
 As London expts: 2:50pm-3:15 The
 Young Doctors (7513132) 3:25-3:55 Home
 and Away (3875236) 6:10-6:40 Families
 (363)

NEW TEES
London exact 1.59m+2.20 Sparzo
(68900142) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away
The Cuckoo Song (6332) 1.00-1.30
10 Blockbusters (5253) 7.30-8.40 House
le (239) 11.40 Mr. Murphy's Law
Charles Bronson, Carrie Snodgrass
The Longest Day (6332) 1.00-1.30
10s Bronson (7164183) 3.20 Night Beat
10152144 4.35 The Look in the Mirror
(6890121) 8.20-5.30 Joliffier (628525)

DORSETSHIRE
London exact 10.00m-10.30 An
the 1940s (6890121) 8.20-5.30
in McCallum (68784) 5.10-5.40 Home
Away (6332) 1.00-1.30
Away (6332) 1.00-1.30
10 Blockbusters (5253) 7.30-8.40 House
le (239) 11.40 Harbald (94419)
355m The Twilight Zone. Our Selves
and Others (6890121) 8.20-5.30

RTÉ 1
12.30m Eurovision (689192)
Stewie 1.20 One World Art (3373955) 1.00
News (6890121) 8.20-5.30
(6354717) 1.40 Death Valley (44)
10175488 2.55 Perry Mason (9413226)
10175488 2.55 Perry Mason (9413226)
Inventions (7382323) 4.00
Investments (392624) 4.00 News (4023956)
1.00 News (4023956)

programme (299
662806) 12.35 Sk

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

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RADIO 3	
5.55 Morning Concert: Mozart (Symphony No 40 in G minor, K550; Columbia SO under Claudio Abbado) 7.30	Jerzy Maksymiuk with Stephen Hough, piano, performs Gorecki (Old Polish Music); Rachmanninov (Piano Concerto No 2 in G minor)
8.00 Morning Concert (Cont): Palestrina (Motet, Sancti Iuliani inter spinas); Gould (Peltre Symphonie), Prokofiev (Roméo and Juliet, Act 1, excerpts)	5.30 Mainly for Pleasure 6.55 News
8.55 News	6.55 The Trojan War: The Return of Ulysses. Live transmission of the English National Opera production of Mortenwede's Trojan Opera from the London Coliseum. Nicholas Kok conducts. Cast includes Andreas Krieger (Hektor), Ulysses), Jean Rugby (Penelope), Neil Jenkins (Paris)
8.59 Morning Masters of the Week: Boccherini (String Quintet in E, Op 11 No 5; Smithsonian Recording Players Series in C, Op 5 No 2); Franco Angeli, torpiano, Enrico Gatti, violin, Enrico Gatti, violin, and	

RADIO 4

<p>5.5am Shipping 6.00 News Briefing 6.05 Farming 6.16 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, In 6.30, 7.30, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30, 11.30, 6.45 Business News 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.45 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day</p> <p>4.40 Yesterday in Parliament Daily Briefings 7.51 580 4411 10-10.30 The Secret Diary of a Tax Collector (FM only): Stella is a long way from home, in Partagas (2 of 3)</p> <p>10 Daily Service LWJ only: from</p>	<p>1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping 2.00 Thirty-Minute Theatre: Dead Flowers. A punchy story within a story by Gerry Jones. A young and inexperienced book reviewer falls for an attractive journalist (s)</p> <p>2.30 Richard Baker Compares Newsreaders and pianist, Jeremy Polmer and Diana Ambachio, who are also news and wife (s)</p> <p>3.00 Soundtrack! (FM only): Jason and the Thunderbirds (s) (r)</p> <p>3.42-4.00 RNSP (FM only): Martin Harris investigates letters without replies. This</p>
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15 The Bible (1)
the Apostles
reads the Bible

**(Overture, School for Scandal:
Utah SO under Joseph** at 8.00 and 9.20 by Tim
Severin

30 Woman's Hour: Meets the jazz composer and performer

Anderson H.
the teaching
South Africa

BBC Singers under John Poole); Hanson (Symphony No

how a gourmet dinner can be grown in a window box

value of pair
treatment of

15 Bournemouth SO under

6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Mates and Millman Show

Alex 31 Healer
British diplomat
(pompous and

Ulysses will settle your

Guests are Jim Tavaré,
Jonathan Cecil and Flaminia

thick brushstrokes. The style is extremely expressive in what it conveys.

G minor, Op 5 No 2); Franck (Sonata in A) players by train across Wisconsin. Lee Montague

Alexander reports from South Africa

democracy, stable while n

11.00 George W Welch: Ian

10.45 **A Book at Bedtime.** A British

suggest that
Revolution st
to pp. 12-55

11:35-12:35pm Composers of the Week: Delius (r)

00 The World at One, with James Naughtie 12.43 *World Service (LW only)*

FREQUENCIES: Raw
FM-88-90.2. Ra

CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

Digital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World
Voice: MW 618kHz/163m